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A PILGRIMAGE IN SURREY



A PILGRIMAGE IN SURREY

By JAMES S. OGILVY

AUTHOR OF

"RELICS AND MEMORIALS OF LONDON CITY" AND "RELICS AND MEMORIALS OF LONDON TOWN"

WITH 47 COLOURED PLATES BY THE AUTHOR

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A PILGRIMAGE IN SURREY

BAYNARDS

THE great enclosure of Baynards Park extends from Vachery southwards almost to the county boundary near Rudge-wick. The house is comparatively little known, but, to my mind, it is the finest of all the great old houses of Surrey. The unfamiliarity arises, no doubt, to some extent from the situation it occupies near the centre of a great park and surrounded by woods, so that no glimpse of it is visible from the outside world from any point nearer than Coneyhurst Hill, three and a half miles away.

At the Norman Conquest the land was owned by Harold, and probably received its present name when given by the Conqueror to Baynard, one of his companions in arms—the builder of Baynards Castle, whose name still survives in the Baynards ward of the city of London. Sixty years afterwards it had again become Crown property, and was given by King Stephen to his natural son, Stephen of Blois, Earl of Moreton, who married Isabel de Warren, daughter of the Earl of Surrey. Apparently the estate was first enclosed by William Sidney, who in 1447 obtained a licence to empark eight hundred acres in Ewehurst, Cranleigh, and Rudgewick, within his manor of Baynards; he died here in 1449, and was buried in Cranleigh Church; Aubrey quotes the inscription on a brass inserted in

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his gravestone, but this has long vanished. His ancestor had been Chamberlain to Henry II., and his son, or grandson, was the Sir William Sidney, Chamberlain to Henry VIII., and one of the commanders at Flodden, to whom Penshurst was granted by Edward VI. Possibly Baynards may have been held by the family long before William Sidney received this licence to enclose it.

The estate probably passed to Sir Reginald Bray about the same time as he acquired Vachery. He was a many-sided man ; it was largely through his influence that Henry VII. obtained the throne of England, and it was quite in keeping that the Crown should be discovered by him sticking on a thorn bush after the battle of Bosworth Field. He arranged the marriage between the new king and Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., which united the houses of York and Lancaster, and so put an end to the rivalry of the roses.

He became Prime Minister, and was the designer and builder of the Henry VII. Chapel at Westminster. He contributed to the cost, and did much work on St. George's Chapel at Windsor, in which he built the Chapel that bears his name, and was buried there after a funeral of great pomp and splendour.

In all probability he was also the builder of the oldest portion of the present house at Baynards ; this property was given by him to his nephew, Edmund, who was summoned to Parliament as Baron Bray in 1530. Four years later Sir Edmund conveyed this, with other estates in Surrey, to his brother, Sir Edward Bray, who was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1538, and was appointed Constable of the Tower in 1539. He died in 1558, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward, who had

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lived at Baynards during his father's lifetime, and continued to do so until about 1577, when he sold the estate to one of the Mores of Losely.

Sir William More lived until 1600, and his son, George, was only twenty-four when Baynards was sold, so that it is probable that the estate was bought by Sir William for his son, who afterwards became Sir George More.

According to Evelyn "a dwelling-house was then erected at Baynards"; but it is obvious that part of the present house is older than that date, so that it is more likely that the house was much enlarged then, and afterwards sold to Richard Evelyn, the father of the diarist. From him it passed to Richard Evelyn of Woodcote—a younger brother of John—who died in 1669, leaving an only daughter, who married William Montague, son of the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and the estate passed into his possession. This is the person of whom John Evelyn writes, who cut down the avenue of oaks planted by Richard Evelyn—"cut down and destroyed by the person who continued to detain the just possession of that estate from those to whom in right and conscience it belonged." By the heirs of William Montague it was sold to Richard, first Lord Onslow, who died in 1717. During the Onslow tenure the place was allowed to fall into decay, and the fine painted glass in the windows of the chief rooms, mentioned by John Evelyn, was removed to the house at Clandon.

In 1818 the second Earl of Onslow sold Baynards to John Smallpiece of Guildford. Some portion, perhaps all the estate, was sold by him in 1824 to Richard Gates; and in 1832 the whole property was purchased by the Rev. Thomas Thurlow

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from the Rev. C. H. Townsend who had executed many repairs. A great deal of work in restoration had been done before the estate was bought from his descendant, Thomas Thurlow, by the present owner, Thomas J. Waller, Esq., to whom I am indebted for much information about the house and the work which has been done there since.

The house is built of faded red brick, chequered and banded in some places by bricks of greyish blue. These different colours have been obtained by some variation in the firing, as all the bricks are of the same clay and texture ; they are of the small size which we associate with Flemish work, but were made on the spot. The pit from which the clay was obtained is now converted into an ornamental pond on the east side of the gardens. The quoins, mullions, and dressings have been originally of chalk, but in places where this has weathered they have been replaced by yellow sandstone ; and portions of the walls have been refaced, obliterating the chequer work. The roofs are still covered with the original Horsham slates, moss-grown and beautiful in colour. The most extraordinary external feature is the multitude of chimneys, singly and in stacks, indicating an abundance of fuel and a love of comfort not always visible in ancient houses. The construction of these tall stacks of chimneys shows that the architect had a very good knowledge of wind pressure. Each individual chimney is square, but from the base the shaft is turned forty-five degrees, providing a series of right angles with an open space between each, to face the wind, instead of a dead wall space, or a wall with a series of vertical slits, the corbelling of the brickwork binds them together at the top, and all the storms of the centuries have not overthrown one of them.



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Great walled gardens extend to the east, a terrace bounded by a pierced brick parapet on the south, and on the west a sunk rose garden, with long alleys of ancient yews on two sides, a terrace with cedars next the house, and a high wall on the other side, separating the garden from the park ; this wall has been pierced, and an iron screen inserted, having conventional renderings of the rose and fleur-de-lis as finials for the bars.

Three leaden figures beside this wall—two ladies and one gallant in Watteau costumes—are by far the daintiest I have seen ; they are probably of French origin.

Formerly there was a moat, and two large ponds south from the house, but the moat has entirely disappeared, and the ponds have been filled up and turned into meadows.

When Mr. Waller bought the place, the house and situation remained much as described by John Evelyn in 1648 and 1657. "I went with my cousin, George Tuke, to see Baynards, a house of my brother Richard's, which he would have hired. This is a very fine noble residence . . . there is a pond of sixty acres near it. . . . The situation is excessively dirty and melancholy."

The courtyard was surrounded by a high wall, imprisoning the house ; this was cut down to a dwarf parapet. The brooks north and south from the house were deepened, the ponds filled up, and the ground so thoroughly drained that no trace of damp remains. The owner declares that now it is not only the house with most chimneys, but the most comfortable mansion in Surrey.

Internally there has been considerable alteration ; as built there was a great doorway in the east end, opening into a straight passage through all the rooms to the great hall, from which a similar passage way turned to a door on the south, while

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the front entrance opened to the north. All these were high enough to allow men-at-arms to pass with pikes on their shoulders. The east and south entrances have been abolished, and the northern doorway converted for modern use.

The great hall occupies the space from the ground to the roof, a lantern light replacing what was the chimney of the open hearth. The roof beams and lantern are decorated with the rose, portcullis, and fleur-de-lis in a fashion similar to Henry VII. Chapel. A statue of Edward VI. with a sceptre occupies a niche high above the present fireplace, which is of Sussex marble and bears the names of the various owners who have held Baynards. The upper walls are hung with fine panels of Gobelins tapestry. There is a crossbow inlaid with ivory, a tournament shield inlaid with gold, a breastplate and helmet, and a flint lock pistol, all belonging to Henry VIII. when Prince of Wales. There are many other pieces of armour and some ceremonial pikes still retaining their fringes, and velvet, showing the initials C. R.

In the minstrels' gallery there is a large and heavily carved oak bedstead, which may have been slept in by Queen Elizabeth ; a large chest, known as her hat-box—but, as large hats were not then in fashion, it may have been a ruff-box—this is heavily strapped with iron and painted with groups of two figures, the lady in each wearing a ruff of the Elizabethan type ; and the historic charter chest in which the head of Sir Thomas More was kept by his daughter, Margaret Roper, after she recovered it from London Bridge, until her own death. It was then placed in a niche in the wall near her coffin in St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, and afterwards removed to the Roper vault there. Apparently Margaret Roper brought the chest here, while she lived with her

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daughter Elizabeth, who was the second wife of Sir Edward Bray, the last of these who held Baynards. This chest is heavily strapped with iron, has a semicircular top, a very elaborate lock, and there are traces of flower painting between the iron straps. In one bedroom there is a carved bedstead and a set of bed steps finely carved in bas-relief, said to have been made for Edward VI.

Numberless other treasures belong to the house, or have been gathered from many lands by the present owner—a large chalice and two cups of rock crystal, a wonderful cross of pearl shell finely sculptured in low relief with figures of Christ and the Virgin Mary, from Syracuse, fine cabinets, panelling, armour, china, silver, pictures, and curios in endless succession.

In the gardens, an astrolabe, several vases, and other ornaments seem to be of old French workmanship. Some of the internal walls are three feet in thickness, and many of the rooms are large and finely proportioned.

The mansion is credited with two ghosts ; one of these is, of course, the head of Sir Thomas More ; the other has not been identified, but is supposed to have its lair in a mysterious sealed chamber over the front entrance, and is said to have been seen “walking” in recent years. Both are regarded as quite harmless.

The park used to be open, and the house was shown at times to visitors, but the damage done by some of these outside, combined with petty thieving and wilful damage perpetrated in the rooms, caused both house and park to be entirely closed to the public. The gateway admitting to the inner courtyard is built with chequer brickwork and stone, and in the upper part there is a small chapel or oratory with a fine oriel window ; it is of the same date as the house.

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In the outer courtyard there is a large iron fireback, now fixed on the wall ; though of one piece, it is divided into panels with semicircular tops. The centre panel bears the date 1593, a shield quartered with three lions and three fleur-de-lis alternately, surrounded by the Ribbon of the Garter and surmounted by a mitre ; the shield and garter are supported by a lion on one side, and some winged heraldic animal on the other ; below are the initials G. M. The arms on the shield are those of Henry v. ; and in 1593 the estate was owned by George More. The side panels are both cast from the same mould and have the same inscription as an iron grave slab in Crowhurst Church, but these have a coat of arms in the semicircular compartment above, two heraldic animals, one resembling an elephant, with fleur-de-lis, and roses beneath ; and below the inscription an ornamental border. The grave slab at Crowhurst has the inscription only, without any decoration except some shields and a figure in a shroud.

At one time Alfold Park was held by Nicholas Gaynesford, but, so far as I know, the Gaynesford, and More families, were not connected ; and if they were, the inscription is a curious one for the back of a fireplace—

“ HERE : LIETH ANE EORST
R : DAUGHTER AND
HEVR TO THOMA2
GAYNSEORD E2QVIER
DECEASED XVIII OE
IANVARY 1591 LEAVING
BEHIND HER II 2ONE2
AND V DAUGHTER2”

The letters are roughly executed, several of them reversed,

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and a few turned upside down. I know the story in connection with the Crowhurst slab, which will be noticed there, but have been entirely unable to find any information with reference to this. In the stable-yard there are several other firebacks, one with the initials W. R., 1656, may be in memory of William Roper, though at that date the Evelyns were in possession. Another very elaborate design has the initials C. R., 1674, the seven being turned the wrong way. This evidently celebrates the Restoration, and shows King Charles on horseback trampling on a male figure representing the Commonwealth ; below are two smaller figures representing Peace and Plenty.

Until now the only signs of waning summer have been the children searching for blackberries to eat with their apples, and the russet leaves changing slowly into gold, the pink and crimson of the bramble and wild cherry, and the shortening days ; but now came winds and rain ; night frosts sent the starlings and thrushes chattering among the elderberries ; chestnuts and acorns strewed the pathways, and the creepers on the cottage roofs began to burn themselves away.

Walking up the long avenue guarded by its solemn row of Wellington pines, the catenary curve of scurrying rabbits and pheasants that preceded me left tracks upon the whitened grass ; here and there a scabious or a ragweed still bore its blossoms, and in the morning mist upon the pasture lands dim and ghostly figures moved to and fro, mushroom gathering. The fires of autumn touched the inner twigs and lower branches of birch, beech, hazel, and oak, creeping slowly up until they reached the top, then flaming out and covering all the far-stretched woods with glory. Between were days of perfect beauty, when the

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Michaelmas daisies bloomed in all their pride and the few remaining roses in the garden shone like fragile gems against their background of yews. Jays chattered, woodpeckers tapped, and the robins continually trilled their little song, in itself a perfect epitome of autumn ; squirrels everywhere, burying more nuts than their little heads could ever remember. No noises came from the outer world except the distant rumble of infrequent railway trains, sometimes the growling thunder of big guns at Spithead, or down the Channel, or the rattle of shot-guns on neighbouring lands, sending flurried pheasants overhead, or down among the placid broods which sunned themselves and pecked among the acorns in the park, all heedless of their coming fate. Evening brought immense flocks of rooks, cawing incessantly as they made for the great rookery near Baynards Station, where they settled noisily, only to rise again and again in agitated battalions as each new flock arrived, their myriad voices rising and falling even when darkness has set in.

I am told that much of this clamour is raised by the native rooks against the arrival of alien birds, who come in vast numbers every autumn from the Continent. This divergence from age-long habits of bird migration is a curious development of recent years, and applies also to wood pigeons, jackdaws, starlings, larks, and other small birds ; whether it is owing to mild seasons or not, the movement shows a large and marked increase every year.

The clear quiet days of St. Luke's little summer passed into days of wind and rain again, working havoc on the late blooming flowers and autumn tints ; but as I turned my back on Baynards for the last time, it was an avenue of gold that led



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under the beech trees towards the Cranleigh gate and out into the open country, where the pine-clad hills loomed like blue-black velvet above the golden russet of the lower woods.

Besides the chapel in Vachery manor house, there is a tradition of a religious house having existed at, or near, Baynards at an early date, but the only trace that I can find is the grant made in 1243 by Roger de Clare of one hundred acres of land in the manor of Shere to the Abbot and Convent of Netley ; the position of this land appears to be unknown. A few of the other manors in the vicinity may be noticed briefly ; in every instance I think the houses are modern.

Knoll or Knowle was held in the latter half of the thirteenth century by Robert at Knoll, and it belonged to that family near the end of the fourteenth century, when Walter Knoll was buried in Cranleigh Church. About the middle of the fifteenth century it was owned by Thomas Slyfield of Great Bookham ; in 1467 he conveyed it in trust for Robert Harding, goldsmith and alderman of London, whose grandson left two daughters co-heiresses. The younger of these, Catherine, conveyed Knowle by marriage to Richard Onslow, Recorder of London and eventually Speaker of the House of Commons, who died in 1571.

Knowle was held by the Onslows until 1823, when it was sold by the Earl of Onslow to William Hanham ; by that time the ancient manor house, dating from about 1300, had become a farmhouse, and was so dilapidated that Mr. Hanham found it necessary to pull it down entirely and build a new mansion on the site. After he removed from Knowle about the middle of the nineteenth century, the house was occupied by John Bradshawe. It is now the residence of Sir George F. Bonham.

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The manor of Somerbury appears to have been held by the Crown until the latter half of the thirteenth century. In 1279 Henry de Somerbury is stated to have held the land of the king in ancient socage ; it consisted of half a carucate (about sixty acres). Richard de Somerbury, a descendant of his, alienated the estate to Eleanor, Countess of Ormond, widow of the first Earl, who afterwards married Sir Thomas Dagworth. Before 1405 it had passed to John de Busbrugge, and it was held by his family until the reign of Edward iv., when it passed to the Brays ; for a time, about 1600, it was owned by the Dendys, and afterwards passed to the Onslows. A large tract of woodland east from Baynards still bears the name.

The manor of Pollingfold was held in the time of Edward i. by William de Pollingfold. By the time of Edward iii. it had passed to James Brocas, and remained with his family until the fifteenth century. In 1532 it was owned by Edmund, Lord Bray, and sold by him to his brother, Sir Edward, by whom it was sold to John Reade. It was then divided into East and West Pollingfold. West Pollingfold became the property of Robert Jossey, who died in 1627, leaving it to James Hay or Jossey, who sold it to Richard Evelyn of Baynards, and it has since passed with that property. Mr. Waller is now the lord of the manor.

East Pollingfold was sold by Sir Edward Bray to John Ledes, who died in 1561 ; the estate was afterwards escheated to the Crown ; a grant of it was obtained by Sir Thomas Palmer of Parham. It was in the possession of John Hill in 1632, and his granddaughter conveyed it by marriage to John Stevens. The estate was afterwards owned by William

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Mabank, whose heirs sold it in 1790 to John Creuze of Stoke-next-Guildford.

Coneyhurst was formerly owned by the Brays, from whom it passed to the Woods of Littleton, Middlesex.

Breache was held by a family of that name in the time of Henry VIII.; in 1581 it was held by John Amersham. The estate was broken up many years ago, but the name remains in Lower Breach Farm, and North Breach Manor, now the residence of Arthur R. Heath.

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There is not much of interest, but it is a pleasant country towards Holmbury St. Mary, and up on to the pine and bracken clad ridge that runs from Leith Hill to Abinger. Here and there large modern houses are growing up among the woods, such as the residence of Sir Frederick Mirrieles at "Pasture Wood," or "Parkhurst," owned by Lieut.-Colonel Lewin.

Near the deep well constructed by the late Mr. Evelyn there is one that requires more than a passing glance before its age is understood. The style is good late Tudor, the timber used is also of that date, and the bricks have been made of small size, avoiding the common error made in reproducing old work; it has been so well done here that in a few years it will be difficult for a stranger to know that he is looking at a new house. This is, I think, owned by Mr. D. Mirrieles.

Abinger can hardly be described as a village. There are a few cottages, several large houses, a church, a school, and an inn. The church has portions of various dates, from Norman onwards;

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the chancel and north chapel probably date from the middle of the thirteenth, and the wooden tower with shingled spire from the fifteenth, century. There is some good modern stained glass and it is fairly picturesque, but, except for its association with the Evelyn and Abinger families, has not much interest. The stocks remain on the green outside the churchyard, but in a rather decayed condition.

The comfortable old-fashioned inn, though remote from towns and railways, is probably as well known to professional men and brain workers as any house in Surrey. There is nothing of the modern hotel, but good English fare, old ale, and other liquors suited to the requirements of hungry men and women who are spending their day of rest on foot, amid beautiful scenery, breathing fresh air and laying up a little store of health for the days to come. About luncheon-time they appear from all directions, and presently vanish again, each group on their separate way towards London. Though the inn is known as Abinger Hatch, the coat of arms on the sign-board is not that of the Abingers, but, I am told, the Tankerville-Chamberlaynes.

From the church a path leads past the little school and downward through the woods, out on the road a little, and then by a wicket gate entering the woods again; where the path crosses a little brook, one gets a glimpse of the Tudor chimneys crowning the old home of the Evelyns; farther on the path merges into the carriage road and past the front gates, to the gate at Wotton Hatch. The house can be well seen from this road as it nestles in a hollow among the woodlands—a large mansion with many modern additions; the view given shows



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the oldest portion of the front ; this has lost much of its picturesque quality by the removal of the chimney-stacks some ten years ago.

A part of the house is shown to the public on Wednesdays, and there are many interesting things among the family treasures—pictures, books, manuscripts, and the Prayer Book used by Charles I. on the scaffold. Some of the rooms are fine, and the gardens are very beautiful. The vases on the pillars of the front gate were probably designed by Christopher Wren ; besides the strapwork and masks shown in the drawing, the tourelles have each four small masks which may be portraits ; but they are too heavily covered with moss for identification.

To modern eyes the situation of the house is low and likely to be damp, but at the time it was built the site was considered an ideal one.

At the Domesday Survey the manor was held by Oswald, one of the king's thanes, from whom Richard de Tonbridge held one hide (about one hundred acres). Towards the end of the twelfth century the manor was held by Ralph de Camoys, who was deprived of it for joining the barons against King John ; but he recovered the estates on the accession of Henry III., and they were held by that family until 1277, when they passed to William de Latymer, who held them from the king. His son succeeded him, and was killed at Bannockburn in 1314, leaving three sisters as heiresses ; but Wotton remained with the Latimer family until 1381, when William, Lord Latimer, died, leaving the estate to Sir Thomas Camoys, his cousin, and that family retained possession until 1429, when Roger, Lord Camoys, released all his right in the manor to T. Morstede, who, in 1435,

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granted the estate to John Mychell and others, aldermen of London. After this it passed through several hands, and towards the close of the fifteenth century was held by Sir Robert Southwell and Sir David Owen. By 1514 the whole manor was in the hands of Sir David Owen, who was a natural son of Owen Tudor, second husband of Katherine of Valois, widow of Henry v. The manor was held by his descendants until it was acquired by the Evelyns in 1579.

The family of Avelin or Evelyn drifted slowly southward from Tower Castle, Shropshire, to Harrow on the Hill, and thence to Kingston, where John Evelyn married the daughter and heiress of David Vincent, lord of the manor of Long Ditton. That manor afterwards came to his son, George Evelyn, who carried on an extensive manufacture of gunpowder there ; this, being in the nature of a monopoly, was extremely profitable, and he purchased large estates in various parts of Surrey. Three of his sons became heads of families—Thomas, at Long Ditton ; John, at Godstone ; and Richard, at Wotton. Each of these families at different times afterwards had the title of baronet conferred on them.

The manufacture of gunpowder was continued by all three, at the original factory, at Godstone, and in the valley of the Tillingbourne a chain of powder mills extended from Wotton to Chilworth.

John Evelyn wrote to Aubrey an account of an explosion at one near Wotton, which did some damage at Wotton House ; probably after that the mills near the house were disused. Of them all, the Chilworth factories are now the only ones at work.



ABINGER AND WOTTON

George Evelyn built the house soon after the estate was purchased ; he died in 1603, and is buried in Wotton Church. This was the grandfather of John Evelyn, the author of *Sylva* and other writings published during his lifetime. The *Diary* by which he is now best known, had a fate somewhat similar to the diary of his friend and contemporary, Samuel Pepys, though it was not written in cipher ; the manuscript of seven hundred pages and other papers remained at Wotton until about the beginning of the nineteenth century, when they were handed to William Bray to be edited and published ; this work was concluded in 1818, and it has since become one of the best-known books in the world. The diaries of Evelyn and Pepys give a picture of the times better than all other books combined ; that of Pepys covers a brief period ; but Evelyn's work covers almost his entire life of eighty-six years.

John Evelyn was born at Wotton in 1620, and though he loved the place with passing tenderness, after his youth he saw little of it for many years. He married a daughter of Sir Richard Brown, ambassador in Paris for Charles 1., and settled down at Deptford. His life was spent among other scenes, and he was an old man who had seen many troubles when he made this entry in his diary—

“*4th May 1694.*—I went this day with my wife and four servants from Sayes Court, removing much furniture of all sorts, books, pictures, hangings, bedding, etc., to furnish the apartment my brother assigned me, and now, after more than forty years, to spend the rest of my days with him at Wotton, where I was born.”

In 1699 his brother died, and John Evelyn inherited the

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Wotton estate, but did not take possession of the house until 25th January 1700. "I went to Wotton the first time after my brother's funeral, to furnish the house with necessaries, Lady Wych and my nephew Glanville, the executors, having sold and disposed of what goods were there of my brother's."

When settled here he kept a smaller household than his father had done, numbering on one occasion twenty-one domestics assembled for family worship, whereas when his father was Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex, he had one hundred and sixteen servants in livery, "every one in green satin doublets." In 1679, when his brother was chosen Knight of the county of Surrey, "the country coming in to give him their suffrages were so many that I believe they eat and drank him out of near £2000—a most abominable custom." In 1696 his brother "kept a Christmas in which we had not fewer than three hundred bumpkins every holyday"; while at his brother's funeral he mentions that two thousand persons were present. These things go far to explain the huge kitchens and dining halls, and the multitude of servants employed in great houses in bygone days, and why so many of them were cut down to smaller dimensions in later times.

Driven from my work by wind and rain, I walked to the church, the key of which can be obtained at the schoolhouse—not at the inn as it used to be; fierce gusts were driving the sleety rain across the fields, hiding the landscape, and pattering ceaselessly on the fallen leaves of the chestnut avenue by the churchyard; the church stands solitary on a little knoll, the valley falling away from the enclosed space thickly spread with dripping tombstones.

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Involuntarily a muttered apology to the dead within and without came to my lips as the lock creaked, the door swung open, and I passed towards the balustraded screen protecting the tombs of the Evelyns.

Somehow the grave presence of John Evelyn seemed to pervade the little chapel, and the words written by him in 1658, when his favourite son, the precocious boy, died, came back to memory—

“ I caused his body to be coffined in lead and repositied . . . that night in the church of Deptford. . . . Intending, God willing, to have him transported with my own body to be interred in our dormitory in Wotton Church, in my dear native county, Surrey. And to lay my bones and mingle my dust with my fathers, if God be gracious to me, and make me as fit for Him as this blessed child was. The Lord Jesus sanctify this and all my other afflictions. Amen. Here ends the joy of my life, and for which I go even mourning to the grave.”

Many years and many sorrows were to pass over him before his desire was accomplished, but “ it ringeth at last unto even-song,” and now—after more than two centuries have gone—there is still some kind hand to place the wreaths upon his tomb.

The two coffin-shaped tombs on the floor are those of John Evelyn, 1706, and his wife, Mary Evelyn, 1709 ; near them a slab, Richard Stanfield and Richard Evelyn. There are six brasses on the floor, and on the walls a plain tablet to Sir John Evelyn, Bart., and Dame Ann, his wife ; a mural monument to Elizabeth Darcie, daughter of Richard Evelyn, 1634 ; a tablet to Richard Evelyn, 1640, and Ellen Evelyn, 1635 ; three sons

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and two daughters in high relief kneel beneath, the figures showing traces of gold and colour. Near this is a monument to George Evelyn of Long Ditton, 1603—the figure in trunk hose ; two wives, one on either side, slightly below him, and in the bottom frieze the little sculptured figures of thirteen sons—one stillborn—and seven daughters, one set of twins and one stillborn ; the stillborn are shown as babies with a little skull near them, the twins sculptured close together. The interior of this chapel is quite plain and lit by three small lancet windows.

The storm still howled and the rain continued to beat on the windows, and I stayed in refuge and examined the church, which has lost much of its interest by over-restoration. There are many tablets and inscriptions which the faint light rendered unreadable—one to William, Earl of Rothes, 1817, and to the Countess of Rothes, 1840, and other two ladies of the Leslie family—this Earl of Rothes was a son of George Raymond Evelyn, who married Jane Elizabeth Leslie, Countess of Rothes ; a tablet to a clansman of my own, though why he is recorded in this corner of the earth is a mystery to me ; the inscription states that Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Ogilvie died in command of the 49th regiment at Secunderabad in 1832, aged fifty years, “having zealously and faithfully served his country for upwards of twenty years in the climates of the East and West Indies, and in New Holland.” There are also memorials to several members of the Steere family, the Witts of Evershed Place, and others.

In the churchyard the tomb of greatest interest is that of William Glanville, a nephew of John Evelyn, who notes the death of his brother-in-law in 1702, stating that he willed his body to

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be wrapped in lead and buried in the sea between Dover and Calais, which was done.

“Nephew Glanville” died in 1719, leaving money to purchase lands for the purpose of providing the sum of £2 each, for five poor boys, who, on the anniversary of his death, shall lay their hands upon his gravestone and “repeat by heart, in a plain and audible voice, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Ten Commandments ; and also read the 15th chapter of the 1st Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, and write in a legible hand two verses of the said chapter.” The reading of these fifty-eight verses, besides the other portions of the ordeal, must be fairly difficult for most boys ; but the ceremony takes place annually in presence of the rector and the local residents.

There was no sign of better weather, and, thinking it impossible to get wetter, I returned the key and took the nearest path by Wotton, and through the woods. Entering these, I soon found that wetness is a question of degree ; the rain-soaked trees dripped water in lumps, rather than drops, bracken, grass, and coppice wood added their share, the sandy paths were rippling brooks ; and before the two miles were traversed I had ceased to think of rain ; I was clothed in rain ; a water-proof coat was merely a water-carrier collecting and discharging little torrents all round, and at the inn door I had to pause a little for the water to drain away before entering. However, it did no harm.

North from Abinger Church a winding wooded lane leads downwards to one of the old “hammer ponds” on the Wotton branch of the Tillingbourne. There are some remains of a mill and water wheel, and a rather fine old miller’s house. The

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pond is much silted up and overgrown with weeds ; the silting here may be explained by an entry in Evelyn's diary in 1652—

“I went with my brother Evelyn to Wotton to give him what directions I was able about his garden . . . for which he was to remove a mountain overgrown with huge trees and thicket, with a moat within ten yards of the house. This my brother immediately attempted, and that without great cost, for more than a hundred yards south, by digging down the mountain and flinging it into a rapid stream, it not only carried away the sand, etc., but filled up the moat and levelled that noble area where now the garden and fountain is.”

The pond is still very pretty, and beyond it the brook meanders through the meadows, passing under the roadway near the beautiful old Crossways Farm, where I started to sketch the view given, looking through the arched gateway into the courtyard ; this is really the youngest part of the house, dating probably from about 1600, but it is quaint in design and charming in colour. I apologised to Mrs. Chappell for standing in her gateway, but found there was nothing out of the way in that, when soon after two young lady pedestrians thrust their tailor-made forms and walking-sticks in front of me, while they calmly and with infinite leisure discussed the house and George Meredith. Finally they came to the conclusion that “it was just sweet, a perfect glimpse of the Stone Age” ! What addled learning filled their pretty heads, I do not know, but their manners left something to be desired.

Then rain again, and I sheltered in the barn among dripping fowls, who pecked thoughtfully at heaps of mangolds, while ducks quacked and squattered in the muddy pools outside. Soon I was

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joined by two poor men and a draggle-tailed woman wheeling all their worldly goods in an old baby-carriage ; they had been pulling mangolds, but were driven in by the weather, wet and cold. The woman seemed the hardest worked of the party, and in time their voiceless misery got on my nerves ; giving her the sandwiches in my bag, I went out into the rain and walked to Abinger Hammer by a good road following the course of the stream, and the chain of hammer ponds formed in the old days to drive the blasts and work the tilt hammers, when the iron industry was a great one in the district ; on the other side of the valley a clump of beech trees has formed a part of many pictures. The village is a pleasant place with a large green ; most of the houses are modern, but there are still some old ones, and a fine old farmhouse with huge chimney-stacks at the Gomshall end.

The rain ceased, and I returned toward Crossways, but before the gateway of Abinger Hall was reached, it was worse than before. I took the homeward path across the meadows, and had reached Abinger Pond when a watery gleam came out of the west ; then, turning back once more, I worked till dusk.

The following day was one of biting frosty wind, and in the evening I was glad to thaw myself and be shown over the house. The interior is of great interest, the oldest parts dating back to about 1400, though many alterations have been made since then. Several of the rooms are large, and in one of them there is a very fine old fireplace ; in another the oak timbering is shown in the walls and ceiling, and one is panelled with curious Jacobean work ; the oak staircase is about six feet wide, with a gallery round the upper floor, fine rails, and square, carved

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balusters. In the large kitchen the fireplace is of the ample proportions required in olden days, and a large brick oven still keeps its place on the garden side of the house. The front shown in the drawing is a mixture of yellowish sandstone and red brick, and the little green courtyard is surrounded by high walls opening on to the road by a round-headed doorway.

Many admirers of George Meredith, and others of the public, have made up their minds that this is the house of *Diana of the Crossways*, and that being so, it is not much use giving a contrary opinion ; but if some of these devotees would show sufficient interest in the author to read the book carefully, they would find that over and over again the house is placed in Sussex and in totally different surroundings. The only points of resemblance here are the name, the courtyard in front and the vicinity of a brook.

The occupants are proud of their beautiful old house, but, when strangers drive up to the gate demanding to see "Diana's" dining-room while they are at dinner there, and "Diana's bedroom overlooking the farmyard," at any hour of the day, they can hardly avoid the reflection that public fame has its disadvantages. Ladies and gentlemen in search of the picturesque might pause long enough to remember that it is a private house they seek to enter, and that object might be obtained easier by asking a favour than by demanding what they have no right to.

Sunday morning broke still and cold, hoar-frost as white as snow on all the fields, and on the path by the churchyard wall onwards through the oak woods towards Holmbury St. Mary ; not a sound in all the world except the rustle of the withered leaves underfoot, when a feeling, rather than a sound, of music



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began to float through the russet woods, rising and falling in liquid cadence, faint and sweet as if the fairies had returned to England again ; it might have been the veritable voice of Pan, but after a time a break in the thick-set trees revealed it as the chimes of Holmbury St. Mary greeting the beginning of the Sabbath day.

This is practically a new village, with a fine church, many well-to-do residents, and two gentlemen's seats—Joldwynds, Sir William Paget Bowman, and Holmbury, W. Joynson-Hicks, Esq.

To the east lies the great expanse of Pasture Wood and the road towards Leith Hill with its well-known tower, a landmark, a look-out, and a monument to its builder. It was erected in 1766, with the consent of Sir John Evelyn, by Richard Hull, a native of Bristol who had a considerable estate in Ireland and owned Leith Hill Place, so that the public might better enjoy the prospect from an elevation of one thousand feet. At his own request he was buried in the floor of the structure in 1772. In 1796 Mr. Perrin, who had purchased the estate of Mr. Hull, had the tower repaired and heightened by the addition of a coping and battlement.

Like many another privilege, it was abused by the public, and after a time the interior was filled up, and the entrance closed. Thus it remained until 1864 when Mr. Evelyn, finding it impossible to reopen the tower, built a staircase outside by which the top is reached. The view is very extensive, and has been often described. One eighteenth-century traveller writes that it "is a sight that would transport a Stoic, a sight that looked like an enchantment and a vision ; . . . you may behold the very water of the sea at thirty miles' distance, . . . at that

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very time, by a little turn of your head, look full over Box Hill and see the country beyond it, and London ; and over the very stomacher of St. Paul's at twenty-five miles' distance, and Hampstead and Highgate beyond it."

North-east from the tower about a mile, the village of Coldharbour is prettily situated near Anstiebury Camp ; and north from the tower, the small hamlet of Friday Street, with its ponds and a little inn set in the woodlands is well worth a visit for the beauty of its surroundings.

There are now three manors in Abinger ; at the Domesday Survey there were only two. The first, bearing the name of the parish, or Abincebourne, had been held by Huscarle of King Edward ; there were then nine hundred acres of arable land, a church, and a mill. Some time after the Conquest this manor, with others in Surrey, came into the hands of the Paganel of Dudley Castle. In 1211 Gilbert de Abingworth or Abinger held one knight's fee of the Honour of Dudley ; and early in the thirteenth century this, with the other manor, was held by David de Jarpenville from the same Honour. In 1371 Thomas de Jarpenville conveyed it to Sir John Aylesbury, who died in 1419, leaving one son, John, under age, and two daughters, one of whom—Eleanor, wife of Sir Humphrey Stafford—inherited this estate. His son, Sir Humphrey, joined in an insurrection against Henry VII., and his estates were forfeited, but these were restored by Henry VIII. In 1552 Sir William Stafford and Dorothy, his wife, with Sir Humphrey Stafford and Elizabeth, his wife, joined in the conveyance of the manor to Thomas and Edward Elrington ; in 1579 the latter conveyed one moiety to Richard Brown of Cranley, and the other to

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William Morgan of Chilworth. The first of these was acquired in 1595 by George Evelyn of Wotton, and the second in 1622 by Richard Evelyn.

The manor of Padingden was split into two—Paddington-Pembroke and Paddington-Bray. The first of these was held in 1272 by John de la Lynde. In 1325 it was owned by John de Hastings; his son and heir, Lawrence, in 1340 was created Earl of Pembroke, and died in 1348, leaving a son John, an infant, who died in 1369. The property afterwards passed to the Beauchamps, and by marriage to the Nevils (Lords Abergavenny); it was held by that family until 1629, when the estate was sold to Richard Evelyn of Wotton.

Paddington-Bray was bought, towards the end of the twelfth century, by Alan Trenchmere of Gomshall; after his death the estate was given by the king to William de Braose, whose descendants held it till near the close of the thirteenth century, when, the owner having dissipated his great wealth, it was sold. In 1305 it was held by Adam de Gurdon. Between the reigns of Edward III. and Edward IV. the manor changed hands several times, and in 1464 it was owned by John Yonge, an alderman of London; from his descendants it passed to Sir John Leigh of Stockwell in 1489. In 1543 it passed from one of the Leighs to Henry VIII., who in 1544 granted it to Sir W. Roche; in 1549 he conveyed the property to Sir Edward Bray of Vachery. In 1557 the manor is described as consisting of thirty messuages, ten cottages, ten tofts, one iron mill, a mill-dam, three hundred acres of land, thirty of meadow, sixty of pasture, one hundred of wood, three hundred and sixty of moor and heath. It remained with the Brays and their relatives, the

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Elringtons, until 1579, when one part was conveyed to Richard Brown and the other to William Morgan. Both shares became the property of Mr. Morgan, and by his son and heir, Sir John Morgan, it was conveyed in 1618 to Sir Christopher Parkins, and his widow in 1624 conveyed the property to Richard Evelyn.

Abinger Hall, now the seat of Lord Farrer, was originally a small house belonging to a local family named Dibble, from whom it was purchased in the first half of the eighteenth century by Catherine Forbes, Countess of Donegal. After her death the place was purchased by Captain Pitts, who erected a mansion on the site. This was afterwards occupied by Commodore Robinson, and by Mr. Skardon, who died in 1814, when the estate was sold to Sir James Scarlett, a prominent barrister and politician, whose forefathers had been long resident in Jamaica. He was afterwards created Baron Abinger, and married, first, Louisa Campbell, daughter of Peter Campbell of Kilmorey—who is buried in Abinger Church—and second, Elizabeth, daughter of Lee Steere Steere of Jayes.

Lord Farrer is now the lord of the manor, though the Earl of Lovelace and the Right Hon. Lord Justice Vaughan-Williams are the principal landowners.

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Gomshall, Shere, and the districts surrounding them are the abiding-place of a small colony of artists, who are surely happily situated. There is a little of everything near them—water and meadows, bits of bleak moorland, chalk downs, and

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quarries, fine old trees, mills, cottages, churches, and a picturesque village in a happy valley.

At Shere the Tillingbourne has grown to a goodly size, and is a brisk little river as it trots through the village; the mill wheel is still turning, though its work nowadays is to pump water for the residents in the district, and the ponds no longer grind gunpowder or resound to the clang of hammers, but are largely devoted to the culture of water-cress. The village has been described as the most beautiful in Surrey, and in many ways the description is true.

The church is a good deal of an antiquarian puzzle, containing portions of almost every period from Norman downwards; and some of the fragments appear to have been transferred from one position to another.

At some remote period the Norman arches supporting the tower have been strengthened by additions, and the south aisle has been extended, a plain three-membered Gothic arch appearing under the earlier round-headed one to which the round columns of Sussex marble probably belonged. The south doorway is fine, and in the porch of the latter there is a large chest probably dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

There is a brass to John Pudfford, 1516, and one to a rector, Rob'tus Scarlyf, who died in 1412, two, to ladies, without inscription, and a large brass of a knight, which was in process of restoration; this is probably the one mentioned by Brayley as the mutilated memorial of John Touchet, Lord Audley, lord of the manor of Shere and Vachery, who died in 1491.

A much-defaced stone in memory of —, of Sutton Place, November 1655, and of Katherine —; the names

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are both illegible, but probably were Holman. There are several memorials for the Bray family, and a mural tablet to the memory of "William Bray, Esquire. The historian of this his native county ; who died 21st December 1832 in the ninety-seventh year of his age."

This gentleman was a solicitor, an antiquary, and a writer on topography and other subjects. Before undertaking the enormous task of arranging and concluding Dr. Manning's work, he had written a book on Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and an account of *Henry Smith and his Charities* ; after the publication of the *History of Surrey*, he undertook another great task when seventy-eight years of age—the preparation and publication of the *Diary and Memoirs of John Evelyn*.

On the death of his eldest brother in 1803 he became owner of the estate of Shere, and resided there until his death, when the manor and property devolved on his grandson, whose descendant, Sir Reginald More Bray, is now lord of the manor.

Near the church there is a good and well-known inn, "The White Horse," with a clump of ancient elms in front of it, and a view of great beauty looking from the doorway towards the downs in winter twilight. Here and there in the village are many picturesque cottages and ancient corners, which have provided subjects for artists times without number.

There are several large houses and gentlemen's seats in the vicinity, but all, I think, are now of modern date. The history of the manor of Shere is the same as Vachery until the time of Sir Reginald Bray, by whom Shere was bequeathed to his nephew Edmund. He held the estate until 1535, when he sold it to his

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brother, Sir Edward Bray, who also purchased other lands in this parish, in Ewehurst, and Cranleigh, and died in 1558, bequeathing to his third wife a life interest in all his disposable estates, and ordaining that if his son Edward should disturb her, the property would become hers in fee. Disputes occurred, and the widow sold the mansion at Shere with lands and tenements, and the advowson of Cranleigh Church ; while the son, Sir Edward Bray, sold other portions of the family estates, but retained the manor.

Shere-Eboracum was separated from Vachery in the time of Edward I. during the division of the Fitz-Geoffrey estates, and went to Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, son and heir of Aveline Fitz-Geoffrey, and was retained by his descendants until William de Burgh was killed in a family quarrel in 1332, leaving one daughter his heiress, who married Lionel, Duke of Clarence, and transferred her inheritance to him ; that prince was a son of Edward III. and Viceroy of Ireland. He left one daughter, Philippa, who married Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March. Their son Roger, in 1386, was recognised by Parliament as heir-presumptive to the throne. His son having died without issue, his estates devolved on his nephew, Richard, Duke of York, who claimed the crown, and was killed in the battle of Wakefield in 1460. From the latinised version of his title, Eboraci, the manor took its name. His eldest son ascended the throne as Edward IV., and the manor descended to his daughter, Elizabeth of York, who married Henry VII. ; afterwards it was held in the king's name. In 1547 it was sold by Edward VI. to Sir Edward Bray, whose family held it till 1609, when it was sold ; in 1771 it was repurchased by William Bray.

Gomsele or Gomshall was held by Earl Harold before the

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Conquest, and was afterwards part of the royal demesne ; it was divided by Henry II. into East and West Gomshall. The former was granted to different persons by various kings. In 1168 it was held by William Malvoisin ; Richard I. granted it to Alan Trenchmere of Padingden ; King John granted it to William de Braose, who at a later time was persecuted by that king and died in exile in 1212, while his wife, son, and daughter-in-law were starved to death at Windsor ; his grandson John inherited East Gomshall, and by his son it was sold to Roger le Savage de Pecco.

His descendants under the abbreviated name of le Savage held it until the reign of Edward III., when it was forfeited, and afterwards settled by Richard II. on the Abbey of St. Mary le Grace, Tower Hill, London ; the manor was then termed Gomshall, Tower-Hill. After the suppression of the monastery in 1539 the manor was granted to Sir Edmund Walsingham, and in 1550 sold by him to Sir Edward Bray of Vachery. It is now part of the Shere property.

West Gomshall was granted about 1200 by King John to Eustace de Eys, and after his death to Peter de Manley—said to have been the executioner of Prince Arthur, whose life stood between John and the throne ; he died in 1224, and the manor was subsequently granted to the Abbey of Netley, in Hampshire, then assuming the name of Gomshall-Netley. In 1538 it was conveyed by Henry VIII. to Sir Edward Bray. The ancient house, with the demesne lands, were sold by his great-great-grandson to William Heath, and transferred by exchange to John Hussey of Sutton Place, from whom the property descended to Edmund S. Lomax.

Sutton is now the eastern portion of Shere. Formerly



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there was an old mansion, and an estate here, which in 1574 belonged to Edmund Hill, and afterwards to Sir John Holman; it was held by Thomas Hussey, a citizen of London, who died in 1665, and after several transfers was bought by Edmund Shallet, who died in 1770, when it descended to his daughter, wife of Caleb Lomax, whose son, Edmund S. Lomax, built a new mansion at Netley and pulled down the ancient house known as Sutton Place. Netley Park is now the residence of Mrs. Levin.

About a mile west from Shere, near Sherbourne Farm, is the pretty little bit of scenery known as the Silent Pool, which has obtained more than local fame largely owing to its introduction into a novel written by the late Martin Tupper, who was a resident in this district. The story given there has been adopted as true, much in the same way as the "Lady of the Lake" has grown to be a tradition of the Trossachs.

While painting there I heard the story of the drowned lovers related by casual visitors so often that it became quite familiar; fortunately, I have forgotten the particulars.

The pool is merely the spring head of the Shere bourne, rising at the bottom of the chalk strata, much in the same way as the springs at Ewell, and at several places on the Wandle; and really it is not so picturesque as the larger pond into which it overflows, yet, in the still autumn days as I saw it, there is no denying its beauty. Lying in a hollow surrounded by densely wooded banks, the unruffled surface reflects the varied tints above, while the colour is also influenced by the refracted light and the tints of the chalk bottom, with the weeds growing there.

November brings few visitors, and the only sound is the

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occasional flop of the trout—fat and well-preserved monsters—rising leisurely after flies and sending the ripples running over the mirror-like water, now strewn with autumn leaves.

A rugged path allows the pedestrian to make a difficult circuit of the pool, and near the farther end the rising spring is best seen ; when this is very active, the bubbling swirl of the rising water is pretty, but nothing to go into raptures about. A timber shelter projected over the water used to provide another view, but this was abused by visitors and is now closed ; it might with advantage be removed altogether as it is neither of use nor ornament.

Autumn still lingered in the sheltered valley ; the elms resplendent in dull gold, and all the woodlands climbing up the downs reached in these last days the climax of their beauty. Pilgrims were afoot in all the paths and lanes, knapsack on shoulder, treading the carpet of the fallen leaves and drinking in the fading glory that would soon give place to winter.

Town life has wrought a marked change in men's attitude towards country scenes, and never in all the history of the world were there so many nature-worshippers as now ; “ the pain and labour, the rain and wind in the fields ” are still as bitter to the country labourer as they were in John Ball's time, but now, to many a town dweller, they are the things to seek—the things to strive for.

Many nights of frost and days of wind and rain stripped the gorgeous robes from wood and hillside, making work unprofitable and well-nigh impossible ; short days and long, dark evenings made me weary of strange firesides, and I passed into the town until spring should break once more.

OCKLEY

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After weeks and months of rain the waters abated, and the weald country south from Leith Hill and along the county boundary became once more accessible to the pedestrian. Strikes had disorganised the railway service, and a breakdown near Cheam made railway travelling a tedious adventure, and it was late afternoon before Ockley Station was reached, a mile and a half to the village, and no means of conveyance, both inns full and overflowing with Easter visitors, and most cottages in a similar condition ; night was falling before I found quarters in the house of the village shoemaker, a comfortable haven for which I was devoutly thankful.

The romance of the open road is a fine ideal, but with scattering showers of snow in the early days of spring and only a bare coppice for a roof, this requires a special training which most of us have little chance or wish to acquire ; and I do not find my brethren, the professional tramps, in any number by the wayside until the grass is grown and the sun has warmed both sides of the hedges ; primroses to steal and sell may send him many miles into the country, but that is only a sporadic outbreak ; it is only when the prospect of avoiding a job at hay-making is possible that the procession begins to move ; if the season is late, that does not matter. I heard a farmer tell a work-seeker that the grass had hardly begun to grow yet. "Ain't it, guv'nor ? All right, I'll wait around till it's ready."

The railway embankments are gay with primroses and coltsfoot, and the woods are thickly spread with cuckoo-flower

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—here known as “lords and ladies”—so dark in tint that it gives the impression of pale blue bells ; the blackthorn is wreathed with the cold ethereal white so characteristic of its thinly spread blossoms on the leafless stems, and the oak woods glow with the russet and gold and purple of the spring.

The village of Ockley straggles along the road and both sides of an open green for about a mile, the road being the Roman Stane Street passing from Arundel almost in a straight line close by Anstiebury Camp to Dorking. In two places—from Oakwood Hill south to near Slinfold, and from Buckinhill Farm northwards—the modern ways diverge from the old track ; otherwise it is essentially the Roman road. It is not probable that any village existed here when the Danes were defeated by the Saxons under King Ethelwulf in 851, as, long after that date, the Domesday Survey includes the manor and parish in the hundred of Woking, fifteen miles distant.

The older inhabitants still talk of this battle as if it was an affair of a few centuries ago, “when the greatest slaughter of heathen men ever witnessed in England” made the little brook which bounds their village green run red with blood.

The windmill which I have drawn stands on a knoll near the south end of the village ; it only ceased working a few years ago, and still bears the name of Almar’s Mill. This, with the farm, records the name of the man who held the land from Edward the Confessor some eight hundred and sixty years ago ; in the Domesday Survey it is valued at seventy shillings, “as in the time of King Edward.”

It is contended that windmills were only introduced into England after the Crusades ; if that is correct, the mill mentioned



W. J. Pley 1912

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in the Survey would be a water-mill ; and there is a small brook running through the farm and a little pond which may have been the mill dam in ancient days.

No doubt the windmill has been burned down many times since the Crusades, and it is rapidly falling into decay now ; but it is all complete, and exploration of the interior right up to the top, where the great cog-wheels transmit the power of the sails to the upright driving shaft, suggests that the miller has merely gone home for the night and left the door open. The slats rattle in the frosty evening wind, and the great sails groan at their moorings as if they would fain be loose again and doing the work they have done so long.

About half a mile east from this mill there is a solitary lake, close ringed by dense woodland, bearing the name of Vann Pond. A great embankment has been thrown across the lower end, for the purpose of retaining a body of water to provide electric light and power for Vann House (G. Chisholme, Esq.), but this has gone no further than providing a fine lake in the woods ; extremely beautiful in the lingering light of the evening, its beauty is marred in the daylight by the muddy colour of the water, a drawback shared by all the brooks and ponds in the district, and caused by the clay held in solution.

Since the great battle in Saxon times Ockley has lived a quiet life. The superiority of the manor was long held by the Clares, descendants of Richard de Tonbridge, who held it after the Norman Conquest. One of these, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, was killed at Bannockburn in 1314 — a battle which appears to have desolated the noble families of England in much the same way as Flodden

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did those in the northern half of the island two centuries later. One of his three sisters, who became coheirs, carried Ockley by marriage to Hugh de Spenser, whose descendant, Thomas, was created Earl of Gloucester by Richard II. in 1397 ; he was executed for rebellion by Henry IV. in 1400, and his estates forfeited to the Crown.

The lords of the manor held their lands from the Clares, and in the thirteenth century the knights' fee of Ockley was held by Alicia de Dammartin, and was transferred by marriage to the Warbletons. In 1300 Nicholas Malemaine, a descendant of one of the companions of the Conqueror, was lord of the manor ; in his case, as in that of the Clares, his three daughters became coheirs, and the property was held by various families until about 1638, when it was sold to George Duncumbe of Weston, Albury. His successor, Sir William Duncumbe, sold the manor and lands to Edward Bax, by whom they were immediately conveyed to Mr. John Evershed, who held them until his death in 1716. After that time the estate passed through various hands until 1751, when Dr. Frank Nicholls became the owner, and occasionally resided at Ockley in the summer season. On the death of Sir Hans Sloane he was appointed one of the physicians to George II., and held that office until the king's death. He died in 1778, and the manorial estate was sold by his son, John Nicholls, M.P. for Blechingley, to Lee Steere of Jayes in 1784. Elizabeth Steere, his daughter and heiress, married Richard Witts, and, in 1795, when the property came into the possession of their son, he took the name of Steere ; his descendant, H. C. Lee Steere, Esq., of Jayes Park is now the lord of the manor. Ockley Court, near the church, was the old manor house ; this was

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purchased from the Bax family in 1744 by Thomas Tash, and was much altered by his son William about the end of the eighteenth century. It was afterwards acquired by Walter Calvert, and is still owned by his descendants.

The church is about half a mile east from the village, and is a fairly picturesque building with a square stone tower, but has undergone many alterations and partial rebuildings probably owing to movement in the deep clay on which it stands. The north aisle and the chancel are nineteenth-century work, and the oldest portions are the south wall, the tower, and the porch. The masonry of the south wall is about fourteenth-century date ; the heavily buttressed tower shows cracks of different ages, and may at some time have been entirely rebuilt with old materials ; the timber porch probably dates from about 1600, with later portions inserted. The interior is that of a pleasant modern church ; there are monuments to the Steeres of Jayes Park, the Arbuthnots of Elderslie (a house in the village), and the Calverts of Ockley Court ; under the tower there is a grave slab to John Evershed, 1716 (the last of his race here), and several others on which the inscriptions cannot be deciphered. The churchyard contains several family vaults ; one in a grove of yews is that of Lieut.-General Folliot of Leith Hill, 1743 ; this was formerly a large structure, but, getting dilapidated, it was reduced in size. Some of the Portland stone slabs may be found in the village doing duty as doorsteps.

So far as I could learn, none of the old villagers have any knowledge of the custom of planting a red rose tree over lovers' graves if they died before marriage. Aubrey mentions it, and remarks on the many rose trees in the churchyard ; the modern

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people must have less poetry in their composition, as I do not think there is one there now—and it is so curious that all tradition of the custom should have died out that I am inclined to think Aubrey must have misread his notes and placed it here, instead of at Ockham, where there are many roses on the graves.

In this part of Surrey the yeomen and husbandmen have always been persons of consequence. There are no great houses of any antiquity, but many of the farmhouses are large and important buildings, which, until comparatively recent times, were still owned by families whose ancestors were there before the Norman Conquest, and it is possible that the one large house among the picturesque cottages of the village occupies the site of one of these. It is now apparently a house of early eighteenth-century date, and has long been occupied by members of the Arbuthnot family, James W. Arbuthnot being the present owner. Near it, at right angles to the main road, is one of these lanes known as Friday Street, which have been such a puzzle to antiquaries; there is another on the northern slope of Leith Hill, and one more just across the Sussex border, near Shiremark Mill. In each instance they lead towards, or are near, a pond, and may have some connection with the provision of fish for the weekly fast in pre-Reformation times, but may just as well be a variation of the many love lanes, and thus associate with Freya, the northern Venus, whose name is the origin of Friday.

Eversheds, or Great Place Farm as it is more commonly named, is about a mile south from Ockley; like nearly all these old farmhouses it is situated at some distance from the high road, the only access for vehicles being a lane near Oakwood Mill, but on foot it can be reached by paths through the woods. Remem-

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bering Cobbett's description of the roads between this and Ewehurst, over which it took him one and a half hour to ride three miles, the wanderer will find something similar when he leaves the high road to-day, even in dry weather ; after much wet, he is wise who leaves these by-roads untrodden. This woodland path was gay with primroses, anemones, orchis, cuckoo-flower, and blackthorn, and the melody of birds filled the air, but soon one has to concentrate one's thoughts on one's footsteps ; where it is damp it is extremely slippery, and where it is dry it is like walking on chaos, or the foundations of the world.

Eversheds, when reached, is a comfortable brick house, but much altered in recent times ; some portions are seventeenth-century work, and were probably built by John Evershed, who died in 1666. I could not, however, find enough to make a picture of.

This family claimed to have held the land from very early times ; in the Domesday Survey it is noted—"this land belonged to a freeman, and not dependent on any manor,"—and they gradually increased in wealth and position until they became lords of the manor of Ockley in the beginning of the eighteenth century ; but that appears to have been the culminating point of their fortunes. After the death of John Evershed in 1716 (buried in Ockley Church), the land and manor were sold, and the name, as yeomen, or farmers, died out of Surrey. John Evershed took a prominent part in the Surrey Petition of 1648 ; and Aubrey refers to the dignified attitude assumed by another member of the family, when urged by the heralds to take a coat of arms : "he knew no difference between gentlemen and yeomen, but that the latter were the better men, and that

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they were really gentlemen only who had longest preserved their estates and patrimonies in the same place from waste or dissipation."

The estate was purchased by Dr. F. Nicholls about 1751, and this was the house occupied by him in the summer season until his death in 1778 ; after that it relapsed into the condition of a farmhouse.

A little distance south from this there is an old timbered farmhouse now occupied by cottagers, but too dilapidated to be picturesque. The road to this was worse than the other, the exit being a green lane leading downward to the Horsham road. A few miles of these tracks enables one to understand the affectionate way in which the inhabitants speak of "the good hard road."

Returning towards Oakwood Hill, at some distance from the road a picturesque residence has been made out of an old farmhouse known as Ruckmans by Capt. Lyell ; but in front the proportion of new work overpowers the ancient. As the owner was not in residence I was not able to see the house from other points.

There is nothing of interest in the hamlet of Oakwood Hill except one or two picturesque cottages and a roadside tavern, though there is a pretty little landscape at the north end where the road crosses a brook.

About half a mile north-west, quite hidden in the woods and only to be reached from the village by field-paths, is Oakwood chapel, a quaint little building in a charming situation with coppice wood growing close up to the churchyard walls. The chapel dates from about 1260, and was founded for the convenience of the parishioners of Wotton, Ewehurst, and Abinger,

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all these churches being at a great distance over very bad roads. At first the services were occasional, but in 1290 Sir Walter de Fancourt presented a priest to the chantry ; at a later time—probably the stormy days of the first and second Edwards—the chapel was neglected and fell into decay. One hundred and fifty years later—according to the legend—Edward de la Hale was hunting in the forest near by, when a wild boar attacked his son, who narrowly escaped with his life. The father, in thankfulness, vowed to restore the chapel, which he did, and also endowed it with £200 a year. Edward de la Hale died in 1431, and a brass to his memory still remains in the chapel, showing a man in full armour with his feet resting on what may be a heraldic lion.

The endowments were seized by Edward VI. on the pretext of superstitious usage, and granted to some private person. Queen Elizabeth in 1561 was graciously pleased to grant the curate an annual stipend of £3, 6s. 8d., and this remained the pittance for many years.

In 1673 the endowments were the property of Mrs. Hervey, whose husband had been treasurer to Henrietta Maria, the Queen Dowager. John Evelyn in a letter to Aubrey describes this lady as “of so avaricious a disposition that she would allow nothing to the officiating priest” ; the chapel was then very dilapidated, and to save it from ruin, two neighbouring yeomen sold the three bells in 1709, and with the price added to subscriptions of their own, the building was repaired and the buttresses strengthened. Before this, however, an entry in Evelyn’s diary, 14th July 1701, shows that he had subscribed towards rebuilding Oakwood Chapel, “now after two hundred years almost fallen down.” In 1723

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Sir John Evelyn and Richard Millar gave each £100 and obtained a grant from Queen Anne's bounty. Sir William Perkins who was executed in 1696 for participation in the Rye House Plot had been an earlier benefactor. In 1725 a similar sum was given by Dr. Godolphin, Dean of St. Paul's and later Provost of Eton. In 1741 Dr. Offley, rector of Abinger, left two farms to the endowment of the chapel, and by the sale of timber on these a third farm was added. All these were friends of Evelyn, and Dr. Offley was a relative; so that there is little doubt that their assistance was obtained by John Evelyn. The third farm mentioned was at first Green Dean, East Horsley, but in 1795 this was exchanged for East Parklands, a picturesque little farm between the chapel and Ockley, of which I have given a drawing.

Judging from old illustrations, the spire has been added within the last sixty years; the pulpit with a sounding-board is eighteenth-century work; and there are some traces of wall-painting on the south wall near the altar; there is a small gallery over the west door. The oldest portion of the church is the south wall with lancet windows and a priest's door.

It is rather curious, considering how much the chapel owes to John Evelyn, that his name does not appear in the list of benefactors.

The altar was prettily decorated for the Easter festival with the native woodland flowers, blackthorn, primroses, and daffodils; the effect was excellent, and justified the choice. The churchyard retains all the flowers of the surrounding coppice wood, and was thickly spread with celandine, wood anemones, cuckoo-flower,



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and primroses. On the south side is a small parish hall bearing the inscription—

“In memory of a beloved mother
CLARE . EMMA . COWPER . BROWN
of Leith Vale 1890.”

Leaving the quiet little spot, I tried to find my way by lanes and paths through the woods to Forest Green, and found it difficult owing to the many diverging ways, even with a map in hand. I studied the house of Leith Vale from a distance, but, judging it too modern for my requirements, turned westward again. After a time I became conscious of a tall young man with a bicycle hovering in the distance, and soon it dawned on me that my movements appeared to interest him, but kept on, thinking that doubtless he was a gamekeeper anxious about his pheasants' eggs. Pausing to consider the probabilities of three diverging paths, he came nearer, and I turned to inquire which was the best way, and was answered, “You speak pretty good English !” The reply had so little bearing on the question that, rather amazed, I asked why I should not, and then discovered that my movements were supposed to be that of a continental spy, marking points on an ordnance map, and had been under close observation since I left Leith Vale. It was pleasant to meet a young man who took an interest in the protection of his native land, and we parted very good friends. I sought the hard road again, where many country dames were making their way homewards, carrying quantities of bread, and found that I had just missed seeing a “bread dole” in operation.

Near the path by which I had reached the chapel there was a little crowd assembled as if for an auction sale when I passed ;

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now I found that these were the candidates for this dole, given, I think, by one of the Evelyns, to be distributed on a certain day about Easter. None of the women were very clear about its origin, but, so far as I could learn, there was little ceremony beyond regulating the quantities according to the number of the applicant's children.

There is nothing of interest on the road, or at Forest Green, but a path to the eastward across the fields leads through the yard of a good old farm. Some portions of the house are closely timbered and probably date from the fifteenth century, others from late in the sixteenth. This was formerly the manor house of Gosterwood, held in 1317 by Henry de Somersbury from Nicholas Malemaine by the service of ten shillings a year; in the same year it was devised by Henry de Somersbury to Simon de Gostrode, who in 1326 settled the estate on his son Richard. How long it was held by that family is uncertain, but in 1444 it was released by Thomas Asherst to William Skerne of Kingston—probably a son of Robert Skerne, whose brass is in Kingston Church—and was given by him as a marriage portion to his daughter Elizabeth on her marriage to Thomas Bardsey in 1457.

In 1518 the estate was released by Sir John Husee and Isaac Sybitts to Robert Draper and his wife Elizabeth, late wife of Thomas Bardsey (this must have been a later generation), with remainder to the heirs of Bardsey; they afterwards released the estate to Peter Bardsey, from whom it passed to Sir Edmund Howard, and afterwards to Sir Henry Wyatt. It was transferred in 1529 to Richard Hill and Thomas Wyatt, and it remained with the Hills until 1593, when Richard Hill sold the estate to George Evelyn, by whose descendants it is still owned.



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South-east from this, and near the boundary of Jayes Park, is Volvens Farm, of which I give a drawing as it is less well known than many of the farmsteads in the district.

The name is peculiar, and every means of inquiry as to its origin have been exhausted by the recently deceased owner and its present tenant without result.

There is a Wolvins Farm near Abinger, and a Woolvers Farm south-east from Leigh, both obviously derived from wolf, but I do not think these explain this name. Possibly the explanation may be found locally. The neighbouring farm is Fishfold, and less than a mile east is Vann. This may have originally been Fold Van.

The construction of the house seems to date it about the end of the sixteenth century. The plan is the usual central space, with a wing at each end slightly projecting ; but here the hall space has been built in two floors, and the great chimney-stack is as old as the house, so that it never had an open hearth and a smoke-hole. At the front one of the projecting wings has been removed. The weather roof of tiles over the first-floor windows is a feature not often met with, and has probably been added at the same time that the end of the house was covered with tiles ; these are now worn and weather-stained into beautiful colour, but their beauty in no way detracts from the service they perform in repelling the wet south and west winds.

The first cuckoo was trying his broken voice among the trees to-day, and the nightingale has poured forth his torrent of song for some nights past, proving, for once at least, the truth of the country adage that both arrive soon after the "lords and ladies" spread their carpet in the woods ; primroses are every-

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where, ferns uncurling, blue bells beginning to show a trace of colour, and the grass in Jayes Park is as green as anything can be while I wander round trying to get a picturesque view of the house from any point, but without success.

The building is large, plain, and substantial, standing on a knoll, with two ornamental lakes at some distance from it; behind rises the woods of Leith Hill, with the sentinel tower that seems to dominate all the southern parts of Surrey. No part of the house appears to be older than the end of the eighteenth century, and it was probably built after the Steere family—who had been yeomen since the Conquest—bought this manor in 1784. Nine years before that, they bought Cudworth Manor, near Newdigate, but I do not know if they lived there for any length of time.

John Nicholls had sold Eversheds to the Witts, and when Elizabeth Steere married Richard Witts in 1795 the properties were once more joined.

There is little of note in the pleasant country towards Holmwood; most of the houses are new, and it tends towards becoming a far-extended suburb of Dorking. So, turning my back on the village green with its fountain standing as a monument to a good woman, though now superseded by a regular water supply, I went to Capel, the same rolling land interspersed with brooks and stretches of woodland all the way.

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Capel is on the main road from Dorking to Horsham. There are a few old cottages, but most of the dwellings are modern;

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the surrounding land is all the deep clay which Cobbett praised for wheat and oaks, and explains Salmon's sarcastic remark that "men and horses are here hardly able to stir, though a mountain could," alluding to a landslip in the sixteenth century, of which traces remained visible in Aubrey's time.

The village takes its name from a chapel erected here in Norman times, which contributed a pension of nine marks to the Abbey of Lewes. The living was granted by Henry VIII. to Howard of Effingham, and was afterwards purchased by Charles, Duke of Norfolk.

The present church has a squat tower and shingled spire ; the nave and chancel are largely thirteenth-century work, and a kind of north aisle was added by J. S. Broadwood in 1834 ; the western doorway has a pointed arch with dog-tooth moulding, but there have been alterations made in the building at three different times during the nineteenth century ; the internal fittings are all new except the roof, which is open timbered. Several of the monuments are of interest ; one in coloured marbles to the memory of John Cowper, Serjeant-at-law, 1590, and his wife Julian, with two figures kneeling ; the man wears a ruff and a crimson robe, the woman, a ruff and a white robe. Another to Robert Cowper, younger son of Richard Cowper of Temple Elfant, who died in 1720, records that he was a descendant of Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Thomas Gresham. In the churchyard there is an old yew about seven feet six inches in diameter.

There is nothing of much interest on the road towards Beare Green and Holmwood, but southward towards the Sussex border there are several old farmhouses, fine examples of their

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kind, though all of them have been much altered in recent years. What they were about twenty-five years ago has fortunately been preserved to us in the fine series of Surrey farmhouses painted by Biscombe Gardner and published in the *English Illustrated Magazine* of 1888.

Osbrook Farm is a fine timbered house, and at Clock House or Rysbridge there are still several ancient portions and the remains of a moat ; but the free use of corrugated iron in roofing and repairing the outbuildings has not improved the general appearance. Bonets farm is still a fine old house, but this also has suffered.

Certain alterations in all these houses are inevitable in order to suit the ways of modern men ; the old buildings are very often damp, musty, inconvenient, and badly lighted owing to windows being closed to avoid the window tax. It is a pity, however, that more care was not taken by the architects of the nineteenth century to preserve the features of the outer shells, which, after all, are the only parts with which the public have any concern.

Near Bonets, perched on a windy knoll on the county boundary is Shiremark windmill, now, I think, the only one of these at work in Surrey, and it is a pleasure to watch the swift revolution of the great sails, to hear the creak of its beams, the hum of the millstones, and to see the miller dusty with his toil. I have painted it, not for its picturesque features, but because it is a joyous living thing taking its part in the work of the world ; it would be better for the countryside if there were many such.

Temple Elfant is a manor farm about two miles south-east from Capel, and only to be reached by crooked lanes, which



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here, and in many other parts of Surrey, are miracles of perversity ; perhaps this arose from the jealousies of the owners of small estates in ancient days. As a rule, the field-paths are fairly straight, but very rough.

This manor was given by John de Elfande to the Knights Templars—hence its name. After the suppression of that Order it was given to the Knights of St. John, who apparently worked it as a grange, and had a cell here for the priest in charge ; afterwards it was leased, and in 1527 a lease was granted to John Willett by the prior and brethren of St. John's, Clerkenwell. After the dissolution of the monasteries that lease held good, and subject to it, the estate came into the hands of Sir Richard Cowper, who was succeeded in the ownership by his son John, whose monument has been noticed in Capel Church. He left no issue, and was succeeded by his brother Richard, whose son, Sir Richard, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresham. It remained with the Cowpers until 1728, when John Cowper sold the estate to Ezra Gill, whose descendants held it until 1832, when it was sold to J. S. Broadwood of Lyne—a fine modern house on the Sussex border now occupied by Mrs. Carey.

Temple Elfand when held by the Cowpers was the largest house and estate in the parish ; it stood in a park and was encircled by a moat and fish-ponds, but afterwards much of the house was pulled down and the estate parcelled into farms.

The house is now a pleasant, comfortable place with some portions dating from the sixteenth century, but most of it is quite modern ; fine gardens, an orchard, and a small pond ; the moat has vanished and the park is merged in the surrounding fields. For a long period, being Church property, it was tithe free except

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when rented ; it then became liable in the same way as other lands. The house is now occupied by Matthew J. Harrison, Esq.

As with many houses here, there is only one road which terminates abruptly, but there is a rather indefinite path across the fields to Tanhouse farm about a mile away ; it is difficult to follow, but the country is fairly open, and it can be done. Across the main road is the gate of Ockley Lodge, past which the road leads towards Newdigate Old Place.

The land formerly belonged to the manor of Churchfield, or Reigate, owned by the Earls of Warren and Surrey. In 1293 it was owned by John de Montfort, whose heir was slain at Bannockburn in 1314 ; being without issue, the manor passed to his brother Peter, a clerk in Holy orders.

The inheritance changed his views of life, and he obtained a dispensation from his vows, was made a knight, and married Margaret, daughter of Lord Furnival. The manor remained with his descendants until the fourteenth century, when the lands of Thomas de Montfort were confiscated and himself condemned to perpetual imprisonment for treason. About the same time this and other estates of the de Montfort family were claimed by Sir Baldwin Freville, a relative ; he obtained possession of this manor and that of Ashted. The Frevilles and their descendants, the Astons, retained possession until the time of Henry VIII., when they were exchanged with that king for lands in Staffordshire. Henry VIII. then granted Newdigate to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Newdigate Old Place was the residence of that family who, from the twelfth century, or earlier, until 1636, held lands here, one generation after another adding to the family possessions,

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and then were followed by others who gradually divested themselves of all the property. By his will in 1482 Thomas Newdigate de Newdigate disposed of a great estate here. His great grandson, who died in 1576, left all his lands to his son Walter on the condition that he allowed his younger brother Thomas a chamber, meat, drink, and apparel, with forty shillings a year in money, or £10 a year in lieu of provisions. Walter Newdigate died in 1590, his son and successor in 1612, leaving two daughters and giving the lands to his nephew on condition that these were paid £1000 each. The money was not paid, and Newdigate came into the possession of his eldest daughter Mary, wife of William Steper, her sister having died without issue. They, in conjunction with the nephew, sold the estate in 1636 to Mr. John Budgen, whose descendants held it until 1807, when it was sold to Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk.

The mansion of the Newdigates, which consisted of different buildings enclosing a quadrangular court, proved too large for their successors, and the greater part was pulled down by J. S. Budgen about the end of the eighteenth century, the remainder being converted into a farmhouse as it still remains, occupied by a bailiff.

There have been alterations since, but a considerable portion of the old house remains, close timbered work dating probably from the fifteenth century, with a very heavy iron-studded oaken door. One of the great barns appears to be of the same date, but the great beams no longer cover the sheaves of wheat and piles of grain; it is a grass farm now, and the busy flail plies no more; young cattle are housed on the threshing-floor, and their litter covers the oaken planks which have been

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polished by generations of bygone husbandmen. One little fragment of ancient custom remains—the making for personal use of a cider so excellent in quality that it might be nectar. The pond may be a portion of the old moat, but all other trace of it has vanished. The modern Newdigate Place is a fine house about half a mile to the south, occupied by Mrs. Janson.

From the old house a wide green lane goes northwards towards the village and church, about a mile distant. This in olden days was the avenue to the Place; it abounds with primroses and blue bells, and the high thorn hedges were alive with singing birds, but, as a road for modern pedestrians, it can only be described as awful, and the dusty highway brings a sense of relief.

Three-quarters of a mile east from the end of the lane is the manor house of Cudworth. This, early in the fourteenth century, was owned by Walter de la Poyle; a century later it became part of the Newdigate property. When that was dispersed in 1636 this manor was purchased by Mr. Ede, one of whose descendants sold the estate in 1775 to Lee Steere.

It is still a moated house with some old features, but has been largely modernised. It is now owned by Philip A. Wilkins, Esq.

A path leads to Sturtwood farm and on to the road round by Parkgate, but there is little of interest on the way back to Newdigate village, where there are a few old cottages near the church.

At what time this was first built does not appear to be known, but about the middle of the twelfth century it was given by Hamelin Plantagenet to the Priory of St. Mary Overey in Southwark.



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The chancel windows are of the thirteenth century, and there are traces of fifteenth-century work in the building; considerable alterations were made in the seventeenth century, and since that time. The wooden tower has had the outer covering renewed recently, but the close six-inch timbering and the upright posts twenty inches square are as before; these support the belfry containing eight bells. Feats performed on these by the Newdigate ringers were famous in the nineteenth century.

The screen is new, and it seems a pity that the fine carved oak screen from the front of the gallery—now lying useless in the base of the tower—should not have been adapted for this. The inscription on it states: "This gallerie was builded by Henry Nicholson, Gent. Anno Dom. 1627." There is a very old chest dug out of a solid oak log with three iron fastenings, which is as old as any portion of the church.

The monuments are few in number, one brass in memory of Joan, daughter of Thomas Smallpiece and late wife of George Steere, parson of this parish, 1634; another on a column to Margaret Edward, Gage Mil, daughter of Henry Dart in Scotney . . . 1616, and a tablet in memory of Richard Morton, late of Ewood, 1768, and his wife, Mary Ede of Cudworth, 1778.

Why there are no memorials of the Newdigates appears to be explained by the story quoted by Aubrey. There was a chapel in the churchyard dedicated to St. Margaret where this family were buried. "One of the Newdigates had this pulled down to give place to a farmhouse. The tradition was, that soon after the family began to decay." There is still a farm near the eastern end of the churchyard, and the tradition may be correct,

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not for the reason suggested, but rather from the fact that when a family is represented by a man degenerate enough to desecrate the graves of his ancestors, his fortunes are not likely to flourish.

The south porch is of timber and was probably built by the gentleman whose name is recorded on the old gallery front, or at the same time ; the lych gate is new.

There are many new houses being built in and around the village, and all the old customs mentioned as existing in the middle of the nineteenth century appear to have died out. A smock frock is unknown ; no longer are flowers in summer or wheat in winter strewn before a bride ; and, so far as I could learn, carol singing and wassailing of orchards are extinct. At Christmas they no longer sing—

“A wassail, a wassail, a wassail bowl we sing,
With cinnamon and peppermint and other spices in.
.
Good master and good mistress, as you sit by the fire,
Oh think of us poor wassailers who tramp it through the mire.
.
Hang out your silken handkerchief upon your golden spear
And welcome in your wassailers to taste your Christmas cheer.”

The old yeoman families have been succeeded by tenant farmers, and the resident gentry are mostly newly settled ; with grass farms there is little employment on the land, and so in many ways the links in the chain of tradition have been broken, never to be united again.

Near the field-path from Newdigate to Capel, Green's farm and Misbrook farm are both fairly picturesque ; no doubt there

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are others in the vicinity, but, hidden as they usually are from the main roads, each requires a separate exploration, and too often this only results in disappointment.

The other manors in the vicinity are Ewood ; this anciently belonged to the Earls of Warren and Surrey. It passed by marriage to William Beauchamp, Lord Abergavenny, and from that family by marriage to the Nevils. Sir Henry Nevil in 1553 sold the lands, with all the buildings, offices, and ironworks, to George and Christopher Darell. After several changes of owners during the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth it fell to the Crown for undischarged debts, and in 1605 was granted to Mary Goche and her son Barnaby. Towards the end of the seventeenth century half the estate was owned by Dr. Morton, whose descendants sold it to Thomas Grimstead in 1767 ; his son Joseph, in 1786, transferred it to the Duke of Norfolk. The other half had been converted into a farm, and was sold by General Smith in 1786 to the same nobleman.

Henfold adjoins this, and formerly belonged to the Poynings and the Fanes ; it was purchased by the Duke of Norfolk in 1806, who in the following year erected a half-way house between Arundel and London there.

Wykeland was granted in 1540 by Henry VIII. to Robert Southwell, and purchased in 1625 by Edmund Jordan of Gatwick ; in 1752 it passed by marriage to John Sharp, who died in 1771, having disinherited his eldest son and entailed the property on his three grandsons. It was held by one of these till 1806, when it was sold to Thomas Kerr, and has changed hands several times since. Broom Hall was owned by William de la Brome in the thirteenth century, and the present house was built by Andrew

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Spottiswoode in the nineteenth century. It is now the residence of Sir Alexander Hargreaves Brown, Bart.

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The rolling clay land extends eastward, dipping down by the Denoak brook and rising again past the long stretch of coppice known as Reckitt's Wood. This is the most easterly of these great coppice woods on a large scale in Surrey ; many of them were planted about a hundred and fifty years ago to supply the demand for hurdles, firewood, and small ware ; now their principal use is the supply of billets and firewood, and they are of little direct profit to the owners. It can easily be seen, however, that where there are large expanses of woodland the country people always seem more comfortable and better nourished than where wood is scarce, and no doubt this arises to a considerable extent from the warmth they are able to provide from cheap fuel, to counteract the effects of cold and damp in winter-time.

The beauty of these woods in spring-time, with their carpet of wild flowers, and the harbourage they provide for wild nature are assets in which every wayfarer may take his part.

By Stanhill Court the road drops steeply down into the flat plain, which extends with little break to the eastern boundary of the county. There are a few old houses in Charlwood, but the greater part of the village is new.

The church and a few cottages near the gate of the churchyard, with an archway of polled elm trees, are the best of it. The church has a low, square tower, and is of various dates, from

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the eleventh century onwards ; the doors are kept locked, and to obtain entrance the sexton must be found, but it is worth the trouble.

The screen, carved with the arms of Saunders, and Carew of Beddington, is one of the best in Surrey. All the work on it is fine, and it probably dates from the fifteenth century ; the pulpit is partly early seventeenth century, but the lower linen fold panels are older. There is an old oak door with good iron-work and fine wrought-iron gates at the south porch.

Many of the monuments are of considerable interest. The Saunders family settled at Charlwood Place early in the fourteenth century—before that time they held an estate at Sanderstead, near Croydon—and many of the memorials are to members of that family. The screen already noticed was erected by Richard Saunders. A brass records Nicholas Saunders and Alys, his wife, six daughters, and four sons ; he died in 1553. Nicholas Saunders, a famous Jesuit of the sixteenth century, was one of these children ; educated as a lawyer, he went to Rome on the accession of Queen Elizabeth and became a priest and Doctor of Divinity ; he attended Cardinal Hosius at the Council of Trent ; and, when the Spaniards invaded Ireland in 1579, Father Saunders accompanied the expedition as Papal Nuncio. After the defeat of the expedition, Camden states that he wandered up and down the country until he was famished to death, though this has been denied. A copious writer on theology and church history, it was to counteract the effect produced by one of his works dealing with Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn that Burnet wrote his *History of the Reformation*. Sir Thomas Saunders was another member of the family who took the opposite side, and

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became one of the commissioners appointed by Edward VI. to despoil the churches of what little valuables his father had left in their possession.

There are inscriptions commemorating Laurence Husee, doctor of laws . . . et legate ad Regnum Scotia. And Antoni Husee, agent proper regnum Anglia infra Germania et in Negotius mercatorus Anglia apud Belgia et Musco. . . .

A brass in the floor to William Jordan, 1625 ; an inscription to William Jordan of Gatewick, 1694 ; and a monument erected by John Sharp, Esq., of Gatewick, in memory of his wife Philippa, 1759. "She was the daughter of William Jordan, Esq., Barrister-at-law, of Gatewick, the antient seat of the family of Jordans, who possessed the same for over 800 years. She was a truly pious and worthy woman, and was lady of the following manors : King's Nympton Devon, Gatewick, Shearmark, Weekland, Charlwood, Hookwood, and Bonus, in this parish and county."

This lady was the sister of the last male of the family, Thomas Jordan, who died in 1750 ; but the barrister appears to rather overstate the case ; the Jordans did not hold Gatwick until about 1377. There are several Saunders tombs in the churchyard, many of the slabs and stonework being of local Charlwood stone, a species of purplish blue marble.

The manor of Charlwood was owned in 1304 by John de Bansted, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas. It afterwards came into the hands of the Nevils, and passed by the marriage of Lady Margaret Nevil to Sir Robert Southwell, who sold this manor and several others, *with the bondmen and their families*, to Henry Lechford in 1547. It was held by his

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descendants until 1625, when his grandson, Sir Richard Lechford, sold it to Edmund Jordan and Thomas Cole ; passing from the last of the Jordans by marriage to John Sharp, it was retained by his descendants until 1806. It was then sold to James Woodbridge, and afterwards to Michael Clayton, whose descendant, G. S. Clayton, is now lord of the manor.

Charlwood or Sanders Place was the home of the Saunders from the beginning of the fourteenth century, and was held by them until after 1662, when the last male heir, Edward Saunders, died, leaving his lands to his sister, Elizabeth Bradshaw, by whom they were sold to Sir William Throckmorton. From him they passed in 1673 to Sir Andrew King, and on the following year to the Earl of Longford. After his death the property was sold to Henry Wise, a celebrated market gardener in Brompton, London, and was long held by his descendants. The house has been rebuilt and is now occupied by Mr. George Stoner.

Hook was held at the beginning of the seventeenth century by William Hewett, and was sold by his son in 1627 to Mr. Symonds ; it afterwards passed to the Jordans of Gatwick. Hookwood was held by the Saunders family from 1651 until recent years.

Hidehurst was formerly a moated house owned by Henry St. John of Epsom, who devised it to his grandson, Attwood Wigsell of Sanderstead, and was held by his descendants until after 1805, when it was sold to Mr. Cuddington, who left it to his niece, Mrs. Middleton, in 1825. It is now a farm occupied by Messrs. W. and S. Swan.

Part of the finely situated house of Russ Hill dates from the

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middle of the seventeenth century, and is now the residence of J. H. J. Hornsby, Esq.

The manor of Gatwick belonged at an early period to a family bearing that name; the house is mentioned in 1304 as standing near the churchyard of Horley, and the estate passed to the Jordans by marriage about 1377. The present house is situated near the road leading to Horley, and close by the race-course, by which the name is best known—a good, substantial brick mansion with a belfry and dormer windows in the roof, similar in design to Reigate Priory and probably built about the same time, near the close of the eighteenth century. It is now owned by Ernest G. MacAndrew. Near it the road crosses the head stream of the Mole, here only a little brook.

Horley is now a small scattered town of modern houses; the parish church stands at the west end, and was destructively restored in 1882; there is now little of interest except a large and finely cut brass to Dame Alice Fenner, who died in 1516; a small brass without inscription, showing a man dressed in a gown, and having long hair; and a very fine tomb of stone, with the figure of a man in chain armour, his feet resting on a lion. There is no inscription, but it is supposed to be the tomb of the founder of the church.

Old tradition ascribes this work to one of the Lords Sonde—a family who held lands at Dorking and were lords of the manor of Puttenden, near Lingfield—but the arms are said to be those of the family of Saleman, who held lands at Lodge in Burstow and Horley in the fourteenth century. The device of a spread eagle is finely carved on the shield, with a leopard's face in the centre; the latter device appears also on the



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shoulders of the figure and on three small pieces of painted glass in the north windows. The north porch is old, and the mouldings fine in design but very much defaced.

Outside the churchyard on the north is the only old house in the town, a tavern bearing the sign of the "Six Bells." The outside timbering appears to be late fifteenth- or sixteenth-century work, but some of the interior seems to be older than that. Local tradition claims it as the oldest house in Surrey, and also that it was a monastery before the church was built. Early in the fourteenth century the church and manor belonged to Chertsey Abbey, and certainly this house was not in existence then, though there may have been a lodging for the priest.

No doubt this was one of the many church taverns provided for the entertainment of man and beast, when population was sparse and people had to ride or walk long distances to the service; as this parish covers nearly eight thousand acres, accommodation of some sort was an absolute necessity. There is another well-known roadside inn at the other end of the town, "The Chequers," which has elderly fragments, but is now practically a nineteenth-century building; the sign is the arms of the Fitzwarrens, a noble family who in ancient days were invested with the power of licensing publicans and wine sellers, and no doubt reaped considerable profit thereby.

The manor of Horley was held by Chertsey Abbey, and after the Reformation was given by Henry VIII. to Sir Nicholas Carew, but reverted to the Crown on his attainder in 1539. Sir Robert Southwell obtained a grant of the manor from Edward VI., and in 1594 conveyed the manor, lands, rents,

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rectory, and advowson to Robert Bristow, from whose family it was purchased by Matthew Carew and sold by him to James Crowner, who in 1602 conveyed it to the Governors of Christ's Hospital, who are still the lords of the manor.

The manor of Kinnersley, about two miles to the north-west of the town, was held by Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, but on his execution for treason in 1521 it was forfeited to the Crown; granted by Henry VIII. to John Scot, it was held by his family until after 1558, about which time the estate passed to John Cowper, a member of a family who had held lands in the vicinity since the middle of the fifteenth century. In 1566 it was purchased by John More of Worth, and after a time came into the possession of Sir William Monson, who died at Kinnersley in 1643. He was succeeded by his son, whose daughter married Sir Francis Throckmorton, and by them the property was sold to Arthur Kettleby and George Petty; they, in 1675, sold it to Benjamin Bonwicke, and by his granddaughters the estate was sold to Richard Ireland, with whose family it remained until 1797, when it was sold to Robert Piper of Dorking. It has since been owned by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Foskett, and Mr. Clark. It is now held by Edward Brocklehurst, who is lord of the manor.

Erbridge belongs to Charlwood Manor, though in Horley parish, and had been owned by the monastery of Christchurch, Canterbury. In the time of Edward VI. it came into the hands of Sir Robert Southwell by marriage with Lady Margaret Nevil, and passed to the Lechfords; in 1603 it was acquired by Richard Bonwicke, and after several transfers came to John Sharp of Gatwick, by whose grandson it was sold in 1805 to Thomas

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Packham, and after his daughter's death it passed to William Nunn.

The manor of Lodge was held in 1462 by John Bury, part of it having been held in 1344 by Roger Saleman and Alice, his wife. After the death of John Bury the manor was again broken up, but in 1608 it had come together again, and was held entire by William Fromonde of East Cheam. It afterwards was held by the Bristowe family, by Mr. Cowper, and by Henry Bonwicke, who died in 1663, leaving it to his cousin John Shove. From 1669 to 1791 it was held by the Yeoman family ; since that time it has changed hands frequently.

The manor of Bures was held in the fourteenth century by a family named de Bures—probably the same as the owners of Lodge ; in the sixteenth century it was held by Richard Bray and his son. About 1625 it became the property of Nicholas Charrington, whose descendants held it in the middle of the nineteenth century.

There are several old farmhouses in the vicinity of Horley, some of them adapted and altered into fine modern houses ; one of these, a little distance south-east from Great Lake Farm, is now known as Langshot Manor. This has a fine stack of chimneys, some close timbering, with zigzag brickwork, and what may have been a moat, now formed into an ornamental pond ; it is now the property of Andrew O. Devitt, Esq. South from this, footpaths and an old lane, with blue bells and primroses in the hedgerows, and clumps of blossoming gorse, lead to the ancient earthwork known as Thunderfield Castle. It is now merely a small island surrounded by a deep moat of clear water, where the ducks and ducklings of Wilgers Farm perform their aquatic manœuvres.

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There is no trace of any building now, but charred timber and quantities of human bones have been found in the moat at different times ; no doubt in some far-off time it was a place of strength. The construction of the moat in that dense clay soil must have involved immense labour, but by whom this was done—Briton, Saxon, or Roman—there is now little chance of learning ; probably any building there was merely a stockade.

A portion of the island has now been planted as an orchard, and the bridge is kept locked ; the other part and the surrounding banks are covered with timber and brushwood and carpeted with blue bells.

The land surrounding the earthwork, about five hundred acres in extent, is a detached portion of the parish of Horne, and is known as Harwardsley or Haroldsley. Local tradition avers that it belonged to King Harold, who had a camp there while on his way to resist the landing of William the Norman at Hastings. Certainly it is not far off the line of road from London to the south coast, but a trench like this could not be hurriedly excavated at the present day ; and in Harold's time, when the work depended solely on human strength, it must have taken a long time.

The estate appears to have been held as a manor from early times. At the beginning of the thirteenth century it was held by the Countess of Warren ; in 1350 it was held by Hugh de Despenser ; a little later Reginald de Cobham was lord of the manor ; in 1440 it was owned by Isabella, daughter of Thomas Spenser, Earl of Gloucester. Afterwards it became the property of John Covert, who died in 1502. In more recent times it was owned by General Popham, who sold it to Charles Morris. The

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manor house had been a farmhouse for many years, but is now the modern mansion of H. C. Fox, Esq.

Pathways can be found from Haroldsley to Burstow Church, but, unless dry weather or frost has hardened the ground, the roundabout way by road is preferable—a pleasant road through open fields, where the larks are singing and the hedgerow elms are clothing themselves in a green veil so fairy-like in texture that it resembles smoke, and the golden flowers of the dandelion are taking the place which has been occupied by the humbler coltsfoot.

Many Surrey churches are placed in out-of-way situations, and this is one of them. The men who made the roads must have been paid by quantity, and so made them as crooked as possible. Near the church there are two large modern houses, and the rectory adjoins the churchyard. Inquiring there for the keys, I found workmen in possession; the late rector had died, his successor had not arrived, and the keys were kept by the clerk at Shipley Bridge, about two miles away. To obtain entrance would have entailed a triple journey, and not even the memory of John Flamsted, King's Astronomer, builder of Greenwich Observatory, and rector of Burstow, would induce me to do that, so I contented myself with looking at the exterior.

The church was restored about sixty years ago, and again more recently. Originally a small Norman building, it was enlarged in the thirteenth century, and the south windows appear to be of the fifteenth century; the tower and shingled spire are entirely of timber, the oldest visible part being the door frame in the base. The interior is of considerable interest if access can be obtained

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in a reasonable way. Some portions of the rectory show Tudor work.

I took the dusty road again past Burstow Hall (C. B. Lindsay), which has been rebuilt ; and by Shipley Bridge, back and forth across the Sussex border to Lowfield Heath, and Gatwick, back to Horley.

About three miles east from Horley is the fine old house of Smallfield Place, which has recently been rescued from its fallen estate as a farmhouse and restored to its former dignity.

The date usually ascribed to this is about 1610 to 1616, while Aubrey states that the door-knocker bore the date 1661. The former dates are approximately correct so far as the stone front and some of the internal arrangements are concerned ; but, when Edward Bysshe, the great lawyer of James I.'s time, rebuilt the house, he did so round the core of an older dwelling.

Some time in the fourteenth century Lord Burghersh gave this estate to John de Burstow as a reward for assistance rendered by him when the donor was thrown from his horse during a battle in the French wars—this was probably soon after 1336.

The family of Burstow were descended from Stephen Fitz Hamon, who held the lordship in the twelfth century, and adopted their name from the lands held by them. All these lands were disposed of by Richard de Burstow in 1367 to Sir Nicholas de Louvaine and Henry Attefeld. Sir Nicholas had one son, who died without issue, and the inheritance devolved on his sister Margaret, who transferred the inheritance to the family of her second husband, Sir Philip St. Clere, of Ightham in Kent. His heir, Thomas, died in 1434, leaving three daughters only, and some of the lands passed by the marriage of Eleanor, daughter of Sir



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Philip and coheir with Thomas St. Clere, to Sir John Gage of Burstow, and descended to Sir John Gage, the distinguished soldier and statesman who owned Haling House and Penshurst in the time of Henry VIII.

Which of these early owners built the original Smallfield Place is not known, but, judging from some of the work on the interior, it may have been done early in the Gages' time.

Some of the other manors were sold by Sir John Gage in 1613, and probably it was about that time that this house was acquired by Edward Bysshe, as his son Sir Edward, afterwards Clarencieux King-at-Arms, was born here in 1616. This gentleman was Member of Parliament for Blechingley in 1640, and sat as a member during the Commonwealth, for Reigate in 1654, and for Gatton in 1658-59. The Restoration deprived him of his offices for a time, but he was reinstated and sat as member for Blechingley for seventeen years. His honours were returned to him as a reward for preserving the Heralds library during the Commonwealth, yet in his later days he ran into debt, sold many of the books, made dishonest grants of arms, and died in disgrace and obscurity in 1679 ; his only son died before him in 1665.

It is not known at what time this property passed from the Bysshe family, there being a blank in the history ; but soon after 1700 it was owned by the Rebow family, and for many years afterwards was occupied as a farmhouse. Possibly it descended for a time in the same way as Bysshe Court.

There is much fine panelling and a great fireplace in the hall. The staircase is fashioned in the same way as the one at Slyfield, and may be compared with that, or with the staircase of

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Aston Hall, both early Jacobean work, where the newel posts are carved in low relief and panels of varying designs used in place of balusters ; there is much good panelling in the other rooms, and a chalk or limestone mantelpiece in one of the upper rooms is similar in contour to some of the work at Fawsley Park dating from about the middle of the sixteenth century. Many treasures of antique furniture now find their proper setting in the old rooms.

A considerable part of the moat remains, but the portion round the base of the wall, shown in the drawing, has been filled in, and added to the lawn, and an addition has been made to the west side of the house by the present owner, W. Leslie Moore, Esq.

There are four manors in Burstow. Court Lodge is about a mile from Smallfield Place, and its history is the same as that house until 1613, when it was sold by Sir John Gage to Sir Edward Culpeper, and sold by his descendants in 1695 to Sir Richard Raines. His son devised the manor to Joseph Kirke, who died in 1765, bequeathing it to the Rev. James Harris, and it was held by his relatives until the early years of the nineteenth century ; it was afterwards owned by Mr. Bainbridge. The property is now held by the owner of a well-known menagerie, who rests his animals there ; it is said that some of these aliens occasionally break loose and spread dismay in the district ; they are not the kind of thing one expects to meet when gathering primroses in an English lane ; neither does one expect to see an elephant harnessed to a plough, and working as well as any horse team, though covering the ground rather quickly for the ploughman. Part of the old manor house remains, and the moat is still there, in curious contrast to the great barns and sheds erected for the animals out of the materials of the old grand stand at Epsom. Possibly the

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present owner is a descendant of that Richard Bostock who was lord of the manor of Bursted in the sixteenth century.

Burstow Park formerly belonged to the Archbishops of Canterbury, and was included in their manor of Wimbledon ; in 1531 it was leased by Archbishop Warham to Sir John Gage. Thomas Cromwell obtained a grant of the manor from Henry VIII., to whom it had been alienated by Cranmer ; after the attainder of Cromwell the manor reverted to the Crown, and was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1591 to Sir Thomas Cecil, who detached it from Wimbledon and sold Burstow Park to Sir Thomas Shirley. In the first half of the eighteenth century it was held by the Paine family, in the latter half by the Harris and Hailes families, and by Thomas Dickson, from whom it passed to the Kelseys.

Burstow Lodge was held in 1330 by Roger Saleman and Alice, his wife ; their descendant, Thomas Saleman, was lord of the manor in 1374, and it may have remained with his family until 1431, when it was transferred to Thomas Codynton. In the time of Henry VIII. it belonged to the Fromondes of East Cheam ; from them it passed by marriage to the Walmesley family, and was held by them and their descendant, Lord Petre, until about the beginning of the nineteenth century, when it was sold to Mr. Sanders ; formerly a moated mansion, it is now a farm.

Rede Hall is a small manor held in 1329 by John de Wysham, and sold by his son to John Pecche, an alderman of London, who died in 1381. Its history is not traced from that time till the close of the eighteenth century, when it was held by Thomas H. Paine, who left it by will to Mrs. Beard ; it

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afterwards passed to Mr. Bainbridge, and is now held by Mr. Tebb.

Bysshe Court—this manor was held by Bartholomew de Burghersh, who died in 1356, from the heir of Hugh le Despenser. He had served in the Scotch wars of Edward II., but took the Lancaster side in the insurrection, was made prisoner at Boroughbridge in 1321, and committed to the Tower, from which he was released by the Queen when she arrived from France in 1326. He found favour with Edward III., and this manor was held by his descendants for two generations; in 1382 it was owned by Sir Thomas Bysshe of Burstow. In the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. it was held by the Culpeper family, who owned Burstow Court Lodge, and from them was bought by Edward Bysshe; by his son (the herald) it was sold in 1675 to Thomas Turgis, who gave it by will to Turgis Newland, a relative; the estate remained in the hands of that family until 1769, when it was sold to Robert Bulkeley, and after his death resold in 1788 to John Ewart, who took down the old mansion and erected another. In the early part of the nineteenth century it was sold by the Court of Chancery to Mr. Willet; and has since been occupied as a farm.

North-east from the straggling hamlet of Smallfield about a mile, Horne Church was an ancient structure and a chapel of ease to Blechingley until 1705. This, in 1880, was restored at considerable expense—the former low-set spire replaced by a taller and less characteristic one, and many other alterations made. The north door is ancient both in wood and iron work, and there is a good chancel screen; the monuments, mostly of the seventeenth and eighteenth century, are not of much interest.

LINGFIELD

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There is little of note on the road towards Lingfield, except at New Chapel—the name has no connection with Felbridge Chapel, but refers to a chapel dedicated to St. Margaret, which once existed near by. There, on the west side of the road to Felbridge, is a fine red-brick house dating apparently from about 1700; at one time this was a roadside inn, but after railways were introduced the waggon traffic ceased, and it became a farmhouse.

There is still a considerable stretch of rough marshy moorland and one or two large millponds between this and Felbridge. One of the Evelyns had a house here. In 1751 James Evelyn of Godstone built a mansion on the site of an old house called Heath Hatch, and in 1787 provided a school and chapel. This was the southern extremity of the parish of Godstone, and in the good old days parishioners were not allowed to stray across the boundaries into other folds. Here they were upwards of seven miles from the parish church; roads were bad, and the founding of a chapel and school were of infinitely greater benefit than would appear in the light of modern days.

Mr. Evelyn endowed both, and provided a set of rules for the governance of the school. These specified that parents were to be at no charge for primers, Testaments, and writing books. The master might teach other children, but not more than twelve on his own account. The boys on the foundation were not to be under six years old, nor stay beyond ten; girls must not be under six, nor stay beyond thirteen (rather a curious rule at a time when female education among poor people was not

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reckoned of much importance); the residence of no pupil to be more than two miles away—not necessarily in the parish, Horne, East Grinstead, and Worth having a share; the master to be a Protestant of the Church of England and not to practise any mechanical trade.

Further, in his will Mr. Evelyn directed that there should be dressed by the schoolmistress every Sunday, for not less than twelve or more than fourteen poor persons, a quantity of beef not less than four stone two pounds, nor more than four stone four pounds; the schoolmistress to be allowed one penny per head for bread, and the same for beer for the partakers; and from the first Thursday in November to the first in April, both inclusive, four stone of beef to be boiled and made into broth for the poor each week; two hundred faggots to be provided for firing, and the schoolmistress to have sixpence a week for her trouble. These rules are quoted at considerable length to show that the feeding of school children is not such a novelty as we are apt to think.

Felbridge Place has been rebuilt, and is now occupied by Percy P. Harvey; and the chapel has been entirely rebuilt in recent times. The school, which was endowed with a rent charge of £21 on Stocklands House, and twelve pieces of land called Stockland in Blechingley, may still exist, but I did not see it.

There is little of interest between this and Lingfield, which, like most of the other villages, has a fringe of modern houses stretching out on all the roads in the vicinity, and a new residential suburb some distance southward by the racecourse, known as Dormans Land. The village, under two names, clusters round the church; the main portion, known as Plaistow Street,

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contains a few old cottages, a pond with an old oak tree, and the village prison with St. Peter's Cross. The pond appears to have been an ordinary roadside watering-place, now fenced in and made more ornamental ; the oak is the boundary mark between the manors of Puttenden, Billeshurst, and Lingfield College. When we begin to investigate the history of the Cross and "cage" the tangle of authorities is rather confusing, and the little building becomes either a wayside chapel or a hermit's cell. As a matter of fact it is a much more recent structure than the Cross to which it is attached, and the date 1773 carved on one of the stones shows probably when it was built as a village lock-up.

The history of the Cross has been twice investigated by the Surrey Archæological Society—in 1862 and in 1891 ; the first of these inquiries made confusion worse confounded.

Aubrey had commended the quality of the local ale, and visited a mineral spring, which still exists at the north end of the village, where he noted a stone basin. The original tradition said that the Cross was surmounted by a cross of stone, on the top of which was a basin to catch the rain, and so provide a purer basis for holy water than any obtainable from the earth—the cross had long vanished. Manning and Bray quote the tradition, and Brayley followed, describing the basin as of iron, and adding that it had been used at this spring and was probably still in existence, as it had been seen on the common not long since.

The Society relied on these accounts and urged the parishioners to obtain the basin and replace it in position ; they did so ; the basin was found, deeply stained by the mineral water

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which obtained for the spring the title of Guldens or golden well, and placed on the top of the Cross, everybody being thus satisfied.

But increase of knowledge brought doubts as to the wisdom of this proceeding, and in 1891 Granville Leveson Gower, Esq., and Mr. Oldred Scott visited Lingfield and made a report to the Society. This report proceeded to demolish many of the traditions, and scoffed at the idea of a basin on the top of the Cross, asking how the water was obtained from it, and suggesting a ladder, but omitting to notice that climbing the oak tree to procure a supply of holy water might have been an excellent method of penance for unruly brethren of the college.

They suggested that the entire fabric was erected by Sir Reginald Cobham, who succeeded his father in 1403, and that it was built at the same time as the college founded by him in 1431, the Cross itself having been destroyed at the Reformation.

They further proposed an elaborate scheme of restoration and the provision of statues for the niches, these to include St. Peter, St. Margaret, Henry VII., Margaret of Anjou, Queen Victoria, Sir Reginald Cobham, Cardinal Beaufort, and Lady Cobham, with their various emblems. Perhaps it is well that none of this was carried out.

Outside the churchyard gate, on the south, there is a picturesque group of buildings, which I have drawn, the oldest of these being a timbered butcher's shop dating probably from the end of the fifteenth century, with zigzag brickwork between the timbers, an old inn, a few cottages of a later date, and some shops re-erected in the old style after being burnt down a short time ago.

While working there, the unusual stir made me conscious



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that it was the 1st of May and a race meeting ; the village was pervaded by men in faded costumes, consisting of a wide-skirted scarlet coat, black velvet cap, breeches, and top-boots generally sadly out of repair, and I imagined them to be some kind of officials on duty round the public-houses. But their humility, their thirst, and their gratitude for the meagre largesse of those who passed by did not seem natural in that rôle, and I learned that they were nondescripts who follow the hounds on foot, hold horses, open gates, and hallo when necessary, their rig being the cast-off clothes of the huntsmen ; runners being many and huntsmen few, the garments are slightly faded before all the applicants are supplied.

As the morning wore on, my position at the roadside became rather uncomfortable, and when tubby men in sporting clothes began to throw pennies to me in the belief that I was a racecourse freak, it was time to quit, rather to the disappointment of my scarlet-coated friends for whom I had provided a sort of nucleus, and who looked after all the stray pennies in a way that occasionally resembled a football scrimmage.

Towards evening the bookmakers and their clients rolled away along the dusty highways in their motor-cars, the sporting farmers set their fast-trotting horses homeward, and the village was left to its repose.

By the west gate of the church is the site where, in 1431, Reginald, Lord Cobham, founded a college for a provost, six chaplains, and a number of clerks of the Carthusian order. This is now occupied by a fairly picturesque farmhouse erected out of the materials of the college early in the eighteenth century.

The tenant assured me that, with the exception of some

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basement stonework, fragments of the moat wall, and two small tombstones without inscription, there is nothing left of the buildings in that particular spot.

Late in the seventeenth century Aubrey describes the college as of freestone with an upper storey of brick and timber, and also mentions a handsome hall and parlour ; it is generally assumed nowadays that the buildings of the college have entirely vanished, but at the north gate of the churchyard there stands what is now known as the Guest House, which may be the apartments mentioned by Aubrey. For many years this had been occupied as four cottages, and were acquired by the late Mr. Hayward with the idea of converting them into a residence for himself ; the end nearest the church had sagged about eighteen inches, and otherwise they were very dilapidated.

During the renovation much fine timbering was discovered, and a tall mullioned window with semicircular tops was found recessed in the front wall and plastered over. This was the window of the centre hall, a fine apartment which had been cut in half horizontally by an inserted floor ; the floor was removed, the sunken gable raised by jacks and underpinned, and by dint of much money, time, and labour the house was restored to its present condition.

It now shows the usual construction of a centre hall, open from floor to roof, and sets of chambers on two floors at either end ; that at the south end has a heavily timbered ceiling, and on the north there is a fine room with a large fireplace and a good fire-back. In the hall and elsewhere many missing portions had to be inserted and other alterations made to fit the house for modern use, but this has all been well done. The old

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mouldings on the beams and the entire woodwork are similar in design, though smaller in scale, to those at Crowhurst ; many of the doors are good old timber and ironwork. Across the path there is a beautiful little garden and another cottage with fine timber work of the same period, and having very large cellars underneath—provision and storerooms for the college probably.

I have to thank Mrs. Hayward for much information, and for her kindness in allowing me to see the interior of her beautiful house.

The church is a large building with a square tower and shingled spire. It was entirely rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, by Reginald, third Lord Cobham, in 1431 ; the projecting stone tower on the north side was no doubt erected to carry a beacon fire to guide wanderers across the low-lying land between the church and Sterborough Castle and the Kentish border.

The interior, from its contents, is of greater interest than any in Surrey, and to enter into the dim light one can understand why sculpture of all the arts is the most powerful in certain surroundings. The mural monuments are many, but the Cobham tombs are the most vivid in their appeal to the imagination.

Outside the sexton whistled softly as he dug a grave for some tired villager who had gone to his rest, and, like the flicker of a cinematograph film, there is the dim light and the presence—for it seems no less of a man who died five hundred and fifty years ago—the grandson of that Sir Henry Cobham who accompanied Richard “the lion heart” to the Crusades and fought at the siege of Acre in 1191. The figure lies as if asleep, clothed in armour, his sword by his side, feet resting on the figure of a

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Saracen, the head of a Saracen and a helmet supported by two angels for a pillow, his hands joined in prayer. This was the first Lord Cobham, born about 1295; he died of the plague in 1361. He was one of the leaders at the battle of Crecy, and to him and the Earl of Warwick the care of the Black Prince was deputed by the King. He was Marshal of the host at Poitiers, Ambassador to Brabant and to the Pope, Admiral of the fleet in 1352, ten years after he had been raised to the Baronage as Lord Cobham of Sterborough. The escutcheons on the tomb are those of Cobham, Berkely, Stafford, Valenges, Badelsmere, Ross, Paveley, and Cosynton.

The second Lord Cobham, who died in 1403, is represented by a great brass, nearly six feet long, showing the figure with a pointed helmet and a hood of chain mail, plate armour, feet resting on a dog. It is in perfect preservation, except that a small portion of the pillow has gone, and is set in the top of an altar tomb—this was the man who appears in Shakespeare's *Richard II.* On the other side of the screen is the tomb of the third Lord Cobham and Ann Bardolph, his second wife; he was born in 1362, and fought at Agincourt in 1415, when the "crooked stick and the grey goose wing" won the day for England and left eleven thousand Frenchmen dead upon the field.

For many years he had in custody at Sterborough Castle the Duke of Orleans, who was made prisoner in that battle, and whose release in 1436 was one of the considerations given by England to purchase an inglorious peace at the end of the Hundred Years War, though it is said that his ransom was four hundred thousand crowns in gold.

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He was the founder of the Carthusian College and rebuilder of the church, hence the position of the tomb in front of the chancel. He left two sons and four daughters, one of whom, Elinour, was the mistress and afterwards the wife of Humphrey, Duke of Gloster, brother of Henry v., and was accused with others of sorcery and enchantment "practised by an image of wax, they endeavoured to bring out of life by little and little the King's person." She was sentenced to do public penance for three days in St. Paul's Cathedral, and be imprisoned for life.

There are two large brasses—one to Isabella Cobham, the other unnamed—and a small one to Katherine Stockete, an Oxted lady, who was attendant to Joan, wife of the first Lord Cobham, and to whom she left £30 in her will. Several small half-length brasses in the chancel bear the arms and effigies of the provosts of the College. A helmet surmounted by a dove, which is on the screen near the Cobham tombs, is supposed to be that of the third Lord Cobham; the dove is probably a later addition signifying peace, as it is no part of the Cobham arms.

Two large tiles, said to be from Lingfield College, and formerly on the floor, have now been placed in the north wall; one has traces of a golden umber glaze in the incised lines, which show a man standing with palms joined in the attitude of prayer, clothed in a short jacket and kilted dress; the other is so cracked and damaged that the design is almost lost. They were moved to their present position when the organ was installed, but the sexton informed me that the damage was done before that time.

There are many memorials to the Howards of Effingham; one of these, a flat, blue stone south from the Cobham tombs, may possibly explain the reason why a great American city received its

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name ; this is in memory of Charles and Philadelphia Howard, son and daughter of Lord Howard and Philadelphia, his wife, "who died in 1684 to the perpetual griefe of their surviving father," who was Francis, Lord Howard of Effingham, governor of Virginia about the same time as Philadelphia was founded by William Penn, 1682. The name became a family one with this branch of the Howards after the marriage of Philadelphia Pelham to Lord Francis. She died in 1685, and he lived nine years afterwards ; there are monuments to them and various members of the Howard family, and to other persons of local note ; one of these may be quoted as a specimen of the cheerful epitaph, a most uncommon sort. "Underneath lie the remains of Sir James Burrow of Sterborough Castle, 1782 . . . above thirty years vice-president and twice president of the Royal Society . . . and once president of the Antiquarian Society of London." . . . "Few or none perhaps have passed through life better contented with their lot, or have enjoyed it with more satisfaction or thankfulness. The convivial character was what he chiefly affected, and it was his constant wish to be easy and cheerful himself, and to see others in a like disposition."

There is a fine series of carved stalls and misericord seats, screen-work, and a sixteenth-century chained Bible ; the pulpit is oak, eighteenth-century work, but the sounding-board is no longer there. The font is old, octagonal in shape, ornamented with quatrefoils having a rose in the centre ; in two of the roses there are traces of a human face, possibly that of the donor ; the cover is old oak. Under the screen on the north side of chancel is a sculptured stone showing an angel with a trumpet, thus preserved from destruction like the old painted glass with which one

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entire light and two portions of a window are filled, bearing the inscription, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost, rescued 1899. C. F. H."

The only large house of any antiquity in the village is New Place, near the railway station ; this was erected by Mr. Turner in 1617 in place of an old timber house. It was acquired by John Hopkins in 1729, from John Wicker, and in 1777 conveyed to Benjamin Bond Hopkins of Pains Hill, whose daughter and heiress married Richard M. Phillips. It is now in the possession of Miss Hall, F.L.S., F.Z.S. Probably the large chimney by the path is part of the old timber house, and there are many features of good old stonework still visible, though there have been considerable alterations in modern times.

Old Surrey Hall is marked on the Ordnance Map, and I have seen occasional references to it as an interesting building ; but inquiries in Lingfield brought no result, even from officials of the district council—"Never heard of it" was the invariable answer. My curiosity was aroused about this mysterious place, and, finding that Mr. Boorer, my landlord, knew the country well, I prevailed on him to start with a pony and trap on a voyage of discovery, choosing Blockfield Farm, the nearest to it on the map, as an objective ; he had been there, but there was no road to it. This was strange in an old settled region like Surrey.

However, we started and trotted south-east towards the corner of the county, past the racecourse and Dormans Land, a modern villa district of Lingfield, where the lilac and apple-blossom filled every garden with rich colour ; the road climbs steadily upwards, opening out wide views of the weald behind us ; past Ford Manor, now a fine modern mansion, and the

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woods beyond, where the blue bells faded into the distance like a summer sea, obscuring the pale yellow of the myriad primroses which had bloomed before them, to be in turn covered up by the bracken and undergrowth now unfolding the fresh green of early summer ; here and there an oast-house, and a patch of hops remain of what was once a considerable industry here ; past Lady Cross Farm, and presently my companion “thinks this is it,” at a gate in a grass field ; one after another, these are crossed, and then a slightly defined track of sandstone ruts and boulders succeeds the smoother grass, still more gates and fields, and a very rough lane leads to the yard of Blockfield Farm, with its oast-house and barns, live stock in general, and a young fox terrier playing at hide-and-seek with a litter of small black pigs. Beyond, through the blossoming orchard trees, there is a glimpse of an ancient timbered house, towards which I crossed the moat heralded by barking dogs, knocked and inquired of the farmer’s wife if she knew a place named Surrey Hall. Yes ; this is the house, though few people use the name now. Knowing my companion, she was quite willing to allow me to sketch ; there had been artists there before, but they generally came from the Sussex side. Is the road out that way better than the other ? Oh no ! it’s rather worse, especially in wet weather. The county boundary is a brook at the bottom of the garden ; and, wishing to see a road that was worse than the other, we left that way and found it a fairly wide lane rising steeply to the main road, entirely of deep clay, and beyond my powers of description. We walked, and the stout horse pulled our vehicle through, and, crossing a farmyard, gained solid ground again on the road leading through a picturesque rock-



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cutting into the beautiful main street of East Grinstead ; this was beyond the boundary of my work, but as an ancient street it is among the finest in the south of England.

Returning the following day, I tried another and possibly a nearer way, which, as it proved, involved a good deal of trespassing. Beyond Dormans Land I turned in at the gate of Wilderwick House ; beyond this, a faint track was indicated on the map leading in the proper direction, with a blank space of a few hundred yards. A cloudy day made me lose my bearings and get entangled in the woodland paths ; after a time I found a gamekeeper feeding his young birds, and explained my difficulty. Like all the men of his trade whom I have met in similar circumstances, he was very kind, and was at considerable trouble to put me on the road ; the blank space on the map then showed itself as several grass fields (the crow fields) among the surrounding woods. These I traversed and entered a long ride, cut through the coppice ; beyond this lay a marshy field gemmed with kingcups and celandine, and, in the distance, the end of my journey.

Working in the garden, the outer world seemed very far away ; a nightingale sang on one of the orchard trees all the day long, making the notes of the other birds seem poor and feeble in comparison, and all day long the bees hummed among the gooseberry bushes, the flowers, and the apple-blossom. In fine summer weather it seems an Arcadia—a land that always must have been difficult of access wherever placed in the idyllic history of the world—and I was glad that I had reached it here.

Some of the timber-work is exceptionally heavy, and the house is unique in Surrey from the great coved cornice under the

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eaves. Internally it follows the usual lines, having the large central hall reaching to the roof with smaller rooms on either side, and, like many others, a floor has been inserted dividing the hall into two storeys ; the roof timbering of this is very fine, and there are traces of a smoke-hole, showing that at one time there had been an open hearth ; there is some good panelling—painted, to give it a more cheerful appearance—and there are later additions of eighteenth-century woodwork and mantelpiece mouldings. The house is built on a stone base, and is quite as picturesque at the back as the front ; the moat remains, with an abundance of clear spring water, and is used by the farmer for the cultivation of water-cress, which has quite a local reputation ; the space enclosed by it is several acres in extent.

Mrs. Leigh showed me over the house, and gave me some excellent homemade wine ; she was keen to learn something of the history of her fine old dwelling, and told me that during the previous summer she had quite expected to do so. A large party of gentlemen belonging to some learned society came to study it, and afterwards lecture on the subject in her parlour, which was set aside for that purpose ; but when the meeting assembled and the lecturer started to speak, she was unable to gain admission, the assembled company of savants apparently being of the opinion that their learned disquisition could have little interest for a farmer's wife ; as it happened, they were mistaken, and it was a source of considerable vexation to that lady. She did not desire to intrude among the company, but, in her place, I would have used a stronger word than "vexed."

The situation of the place is peculiar ; the land is in Surrey, but is part of a parish in Sussex. The name of the farm build-

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ings is Blockfield, the name of the house is Surrey Hall, and it is further complicated by the arrangement of the manor, which is Blockfield or Shovelstrode. The manor house bearing the latter name—a beautiful old house—is about a mile south of the Sussex border, and this house here was evidently erected for the use of the lord and the Surrey property. Probably we owe the name “Old Surrey Hall” to the same Ordnance surveyor who in the early maps created the title of “The Pilgrims’ Way” for the old road across the downs from Guildford to Tatsfield.

Few incidents in its history can be traced ; the manor of Blokesfield or Shovelstrode was owned by Roland de Oxted, whose family had lands in the Oxted district from the Conquest. He died in 1291, and his daughters became coheirs. In 1332 certain lands in Lingfield were acquired by John Gaynesford, and these were probably part of them. This manor was held by the Gaynesfords until 1679, when William Gaynesford died, having two daughters only. Surrey Hall appears to date from before 1450, and would, therefore, be erected by one of that family—probably by the John Gaynesford who died in 1450 and was buried at Crowhurst. Edward Johnson, who was lord of the manor of Ford, married one of the daughters and purchased the share of Blockfield held by the other, and it remained with his descendants until 1727, when it was sold by his grandson, William Johnson, to Percival Lewis and others, from whom the estate was purchased by John Major (afterwards made a baronet) in 1764. He had two daughters, one of whom, Anne, married John Henniker, and the other, Elizabeth, married Henry, Duke of Chandos. The manor was held jointly by the son and grandson of John Henniker, and the Duchess of Chandos until after

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1807. It afterwards became the property of Patrick Bryne, and was left by him to Mrs. Gwilliam.

The manor of Ford was owned by the Gaynesfords before 1582. After the death of William Gaynesford in 1679 it came into possession of his son-in-law, Edward Johnson, who in 1682 conveyed it to Robert Linfield, whose brother sold it in 1692 to Anthony Farindon ; it was held by his descendants until 1777, when it was purchased by Sir James Burrow of Sterborough Castle. The trustees of his nephew sold it in 1794 to Sir Thomas Turton, and from him it passed in 1801 to Colonel Henry Malcolm, who sold it to J. F. Elphinstone. It is now the property of Captain H. H. Spender-Clay.

Dormans Land was anciently a portion of the land known as Gildable, woods belonging to the Crown, which were paid for and granted by Her Majesty's surveyor in 1574 to Thomas Kente and George Holmden. "Kente and the lady his wife to inhabit and keep house at their then mansion called Apesselstowne (apostles' town) in Lingfield, Holmden to live at Battners." Probably both of these estates had been in possession of the College at Lingfield, though neither appears in the original grant made by Lord Cobham in 1489.

There was a rent charge on Dormans Land by John Underhelde, he giving the land to Alice Croker "on condition that she find yearly, for ever, a wax taper of two pounds weight before the Trinity in the church at Lyngefield." One of these places is now a farm known as Apsleytown, where there are some old portions, but nothing so old as Queen Elizabeth's time. Several other farms retain a savour of church ownership in their names, such as Lady Cross, Saint Piers, and Magnus Deo Farms.

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Wilderwick, formerly the residence of Mrs. Gwilliam, is a good modern house occupied now by Walter Munday, Esq.

The manor of Felcourt is situated west from Dormans Land. This formerly belonged to the Abbey of Hyde ; it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Gresham, one of whose descendants sold it in 1589 to John Valentyne ; it was afterwards held by the Turner family until 1684, when part of the estate was purchased by Anthony Farindon, whose grandson sold Felcourt to Mr. Field in 1787. It was afterwards owned by Mr. Tooke and by Mr. Dillon, who sold it about 1810 to Sir Thomas Turton ; it is now in the possession of Hubert Sturdy, Esq.

Chartham is in this manor ; formerly the residence of the Rupal family, it is now owned by Colonel A. R. Margary.

Billeshurst Manor was for many years the residence of the Ladbroke family ; it was part of the endowments of the College, then bearing the name of Byllies Park. W. Gilbert, Esq., is now lord of the manor.

Two other small manors, Browns and Sheffield, have little historic interest. Padinden or Puttenden was owned in the thirteenth century by a family of that name. John de Padinden died in 1362, after which the manor was divided among his cousins. In 1477 the whole manor was held by Reginald Sonde, and was held by Sir George Sondes in 1640 ; from him it descended to Lewis Watson, Earl of Rockingham, who died in 1742. The estate was sold by his nephew, Watson, Lord Sondes, to Abraham Atkins, who left it to his nephew, Edwin Atkins, whose son was owner in the early years of the nineteenth century. The manor house is now the property of the Hon. Mark F. Napier, and has been rescued by

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him from dilapidation and decay and restored into a fine old house.

The last manor to be noticed in Lingfield is also the most important, in an historical sense ; it was the home of the Cobhams.

Sterborough or Prinkham came to them by marriage from William de Hevere of Hevere Castle, who had obtained a grant of the land in 1281. His daughter and heiress married Reginald de Cobham of Cowling in Kent, and his grandson built Sterborough Castle in 1342. This was the first Lord Cobham, whose tomb has been noticed in the church ; he died of the plague in 1361. His grandson was the founder of Lingfield College and rebuilder of the church ; he died in 1446, leaving two sons and four daughters. The eldest son Reginald had only one daughter, Margaret, who married Ralph Nevil, Earl of Westmoreland ; they left no issue, and the estate devolved on her cousin, Anne, who had been betrothed in infancy to the son of Lord Mountjoy, but he died before the marriage took place.

Sir Thomas Borough obtained the wardship of the heiress from Edward iv., and, with that power in hand, quickly married her to his son, Edward. The estate remained with their family for several generations, until 1602, when four sisters became co-heiresses. The shares of three of those were purchased by Sir Thomas Richardson, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, a rather puritanical man and an opponent of Laud ; he died in 1634, leaving one son, Thomas, who became a Baron of the Exchequer in Scotland and died in 1642. His son, Thomas, sold the property to William Saxby, who also purchased the fourth share, and his family retained possession until 1751, when the

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estate was sold to Sir James Burrow, who died in 1782, leaving it to his nephew, who died in 1793. The property was afterwards sold to Sir Thomas Turton, and by him in 1812 to Christopher Smith, an alderman of London; after his decease it was sold to John Tonge. It is now the property of Arthur H. Hastie, Esq.

The castle had been garrisoned by the parliamentary forces in the time of Charles I., but the House of Commons in 1649 ordered it to be destroyed. The house built by Sir James Burrow has also been pulled down, and re-erected, more than once, and practically all that remains of ancient days is the moat.

A little south from this, on Dry Hill in Ford Manor, there are considerable remains of an ancient British camp containing twenty-six acres, and defended by three ditches, but the greater part of these have vanished.

On the northern side of the flat ground watered by the rivulets running towards the Eden and the Medway there are a few notable places. There is little of interest at Blindley Heath, a stretch of rush-covered common, a few old cottages, and many new ones. East from this is Moat Farm, said to have been a picturesque place at one time, and it may be again, when time has mellowed it, but at present it is all new, including the moat walls. From this a very rough clay lane leads past the fine new house of Arden's Run, which stands on rising ground and forms a conspicuous landmark for a long distance round. It is owned by H. H. König, Esq.

Where the lane meets the road again a broad green track leads northward over the wood-crowned hill towards an old

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tilled barn and the front of Crowhurst Place, one of the most picturesque of the timbered houses of Surrey.

At the beginning of the fourteenth century this formed a distinct manor held by Robert de Stangrave, who in 1303 obtained a grant of free warren for his lands here ; in 1338 the estate was granted by Robert de Stangrave, probably a son of the above, to John Gaynesford and Margery, his wife.

The Gaynesfords claimed to have resided in the district long before the Norman Conquest, apparently at Chellows, a short distance to the east. With Crowhurst as a centre, the family gradually acquired estates and manors in many parts of Surrey ; from father to son, nearly all named John, with little-known incident the manors descended to Sir John Gaynesford, who was M.P. for the county in 1467 and sheriff in 1471 ; this enterprising gentleman was married six times and had twenty children. Breaking through the family rule, his eldest son was named Thomas, but he, having only two children, reverted again to custom and named his son John and his daughter Anne. From an inquisition taken in 1554 John Gaynesford was declared to be an idiot, and his sister Anne became his heir ; only a part of the estates came into her possession, however, and the manor of Crowhurst went to Erasmus Gaynesford, the eldest son of Sir John Gaynesford by his sixth wife. Erasmus then became the family name until 1672, when the third of these died, having some years previously settled Crowhurst and other estates on his son John when he married Anne Gape, who survived to bear him one daughter only, Elizabeth. He married again, and by the second wife had two sons and one daughter, Mirabella ; both sons died childless, and

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a legal contest between the daughters resulted in favour of Elizabeth, wife of Henry Christmas. Their only son died without issue, and their daughter, Mary Christmas, became heir to the property.

In 1720 she agreed to sell Crowhurst to Edward Gibbon, one of the directors of the South Sea Company, but before the purchase was completed the bubble burst, and the estates of Gibbon and other directors were vested in trustees for the benefit of the creditors. Mary Christmas made her claim, and received the purchase money in 1722, the manor being then conveyed to the trustees, who, two years later, sold it to the Duchess of Marlborough, by whom it was settled as part of the endowment of the house of charity erected by her at St. Albans for the widows of officers in the army.

For many years after this Crowhurst was merely a farmhouse; the last farmer, who had also been tenant of Smallfield Place, a very old man, is still living in Lingfield.

The house was taken in hand by Mr. Crawley, a well-known architect, and carefully brought back to its former dignity. Strangely enough, it is now, after nearly two hundred years, once more in the possession of the Duchess of Marlborough.

It is not often that the rise and decay of a great family can be so easily traced while the house they occupied still exists.

The builder of the present house was probably either the much married man or his father; and many of the alterations which spoiled it took place in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Originally it must have followed the usual plan, a great hall in the centre, flanked on either side by smaller rooms, contained

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in wings having slightly projecting gables ; the southern gable has disappeared, though the section is quite visible in the roof, and the timbered front wall of that portion replaced by coarse brickwork.

The rest of the front had been covered with hung tiles, no doubt to keep out the damp and draughts when the plaster-work between the timbers had decayed. These tiles have now been removed and the close timbering shown in its original form. The back of the house followed similar lines, the wing gables being a few feet lower ; and in some ways this was, and is, the most picturesque side of the house, but more new work has been necessary. All the old chimney-stacks are built outside, and there are traces still left of the old louvred smoke-hole for the open fireplace in the centre of the hall, but that, of course, has long been disused ; a floor had been inserted, but that is now removed, and the splendid hall is, as it was when first built, open from floor to roof ; the moulded timbering of this is very fine in design and execution, and there is a great old fireplace. Most of the rooms are finely panelled ; many portions were decayed or missing, but all have been made good with oak as old as the house itself, by clever local carpenters working in the great barn. Paint or varnish is not used ; the latches on the doors are of wood pulled by a thong, and in the whole interior there is nothing to jar on the senses. The entire house has a charm beyond description, broken only by the ugly brickwork where the southern gable has been displaced. The tall mullioned window which gives light to the hall is, of course, new, and some might quarrel with the curved design ; but it is a handsome piece of work. The porch is also new, but the door is in its original position ;



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this is said to have been covered with red morocco in the great days of old.

The moat is still entire with water deep enough to carry a boat ; the bridge leading to the front door is of brick and stone, and a wooden bridge at the north end gives access to the kitchen quarters. A space between the moat and the outer wall has been converted into a flower garden, and at the gate there is a small stairway of four steps provided to assist a corpulent or heavily armed knight to reach his saddle without undue exertion. Old people in this district give these the name of "jossing blocks," probably a corruption of jousting block ; this one at Crowhurst may have been used on more than one occasion by our sovereign lord Henry VIII. when he visited here. Acres of gardens are being laid out on the fields to the west, and in the wood above the house a colony of rooks have recently taken up their abode as if to prove that the house was properly named ; they flitted here from the vicinity of a new house near by, where they were not made welcome. Country folks still consider that there is something uncanny and mysterious about these birds, and their presence near a house an omen of great good luck ; certainly their unmelodious notes, when mingled in company, have a curious air of restfulness that well befits an ancient house.

Local tradition is strong on the associations of Crowhurst with Henry VIII. and visits made when on the way to and from Anne Boleyn at Hever, and finds no difficulty in appropriating the picturesque story quoted by Miss Strickland from Sir Thomas Wyatt as pertaining to a member of the family here. Personally I cannot make the persons or the dates square very well either at Crowhurst or at Poyle. Mistress Anne

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Gaynesford was a lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn, who lent her a new book to read—either Tindal's translation of the Gospels, or his *Christian Obedience*. So intent was she on its perusal that her sweetheart, George Zouch, snatched it from her in pique and would not return it. Bored with the service in the chapel one day, he began to study the volume, and became so engrossed in the contents that the Dean stole up behind him, saw that it was a prohibited book, snatched it from the young man, and carried it to Cardinal Wolsey. Anne Boleyn sought for the return of the book from her lady-in-waiting, she from her sweetheart, who, unable to recover it from the Dean and the Cardinal, had to confess the truth to the future Queen, who in turn applied to Henry VIII., seeking his assistance to obtain the volume. This he immediately did, and also became engrossed in the study of it, with the result that the truths contained therein, and the dislike engendered in the mind of Anne Boleyn against Wolsey, had considerable influence on future advents. My difficulty is that Anne Gaynesford of Crowhurst married William Forster, and Anne Gaynesford of Poyle did not marry George Zouch until 1545, nearly twenty years after the event related was likely to happen.

About a mile north across the valley Crowhurst Church is a picturesque little building with a wooden tower and shingled spire, and a sunny churchyard with many great elm trees on the south.

The church has been much patched and restored externally at different times from the seventeenth century onwards, the oldest portions being the south aisle, dating from about 1200.

The rectory was vested in the prior and convent of

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Tandridge before 1304, and was part of the compensation given by Henry VIII. in 1537 to John Rede when he took possession of that boy's property at Oatlands.

The principal interest of the interior is the tombs and brasses of the Gaynesfords and their wives, and various memorials of the Angell family. In the south aisle, near a small brass to Anne Gaynesford, one tomb has been entirely divested of its brasses; the most curious memorial is the iron grave slab with an inscription in rudely formed raised letters, exactly similar to the fire-back noticed at Baynards; it is said that there are several others in Kent; here the slab is oblong, the inscription in one division, and on the right of this the other portion bears a rude effigy supposed to represent a figure in a shroud, a shield with small figures of four daughters—one missing—another shield with the letters W. R. and the figures of two sons, and below another two shields of arms.

The part bearing the inscription is exactly similar to the centre compartment of that at Baynards, but lacks the semicircular top and the side panels with heraldic devices, and the letters W. R. may refer to the same person as those on another fire-back there.

Manning and Bray's explanation that this was her method of publishing her claim as heir to her idiot brother may be right, but it does not in any way lessen the mystery why people who had nothing to do with the Gaynesford family should have the inscription reproduced as part of the decoration of their fire-backs. I have only seen these two, but it would be interesting to know if the other specimens vary in the devices, while retaining the facsimile inscription.

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The pulpit is partly new and partly old, both in the framing and linen fold panels ; there is an old oak chest, and the font is an octagonal stone basin with a centre column and four round legs, rough in workmanship and probably dating from the thirteenth century.

At the east end of the church is the well-known yew tree ; this is about eleven feet in diameter and is bound together by a chain. Some philistine about 1820 enlarged the hollow interior, cut a door in the side, and put a circular seat inside, leaving only the outer shell, yet the tree lives and appears vigorous. A stone cannon-ball lies near it ; this is said to have been found in the interior during these operations. For this Oliver Cromwell has to bear the popular indignation, " He fired this ball at the church and it went into the yew tree " ; it is no use pointing out that Oliver Cromwell had no reason to drag ordnance capable of firing a six-inch ball about this part of Surrey, or that there were two Cromwells, one of them named Thomas, who did despoil churches. This ball may have been a clock weight, or may have been carried here from Sterborough Castle as a curiosity and dropped into the hollow trunk by some mischievous person.

Across the road from the churchyard is the house known as the Mansion, the old home of the Angell family ; it is now a farmhouse, and a perfect patchwork of alterations and additions. The arched porch dates from about 1700, the front door is much older and used to open directly into a large room, but a modern partition has divided a portion off as an entrance lobby ; this room contains a good chimney corner with a fine fire-back having a design of a Cupid with flames. There is another great fireplace in the kitchen, which has a heavily timbered ceiling. The oldest

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brickwork is to be seen from the floor of the hop kiln, where part of the house has been cut away, leaving two fireplaces and one chimney exposed ; these are part of the great Tudor chimney-stack visible on the outside, which is now the best feature of the house. There are several portions of brick and timber work, but none of this seems to be older than late in the seventeenth century.

The Angell family were settled at Crowhurst at the beginning of the seventeenth century, how much earlier is not known ; one of them, John Angell, was caterer for James I., Charles I., and Charles II., and chief porter at Windsor Castle. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Edolph, who bore him twenty children. The Angells, thus being provided with a good start, have in a way retained possession since. The representative of the family who died in 1785 by his will bequeathed a part of the property to such person or persons who could trace their descent from an ancestor of his in the reign of Henry VI. ; a lawsuit or crop of them ensued. This was inevitable where a pedigree has to be traced through a family of twenty ; some of the claimants succeeded, and obtained portions so long after as the middle of the nineteenth century, but Crowhurst before that had passed into other hands ; and none of the descendants now appear to hold land in this district.

The manor of Chellows adjoins Crowhurst Place on the east ; this was held by the Gaynesfords along with the manor of Blockfield before 1360—how long before is not known, though on the tomb of Erasmus Gaynesford in Crowhurst Church the family is described as “residing there long before the Norman Conquest.” After, the property was divided owing to the heir being an idiot. Chellows was part of what fell to Anne Gaynesford, who married

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William Forster ; she died in 1591, and her son, Sir William Forster, sold the estate in 1612 to John Hatcher of Newdigate, who resold it in the following year to John Courthopp of Lingfield. His descendant, John Courthopp, conveyed it in 1711 to Henry Shove, who in 1738 devised it to his nephew, Thomas Saunders of Hookwood, by whom it was sold to Robert Burrow of Sterborough Castle ; and sold after his death, in 1794, to Sir Thomas Turton, who exchanged it with John Nicholls for part of the rectory at Lingfield ; it was afterwards owned by the Donovan family. The manor house is now a farm without any ancient features.

The manor of Newlands is situated between Crowhurst and Godstone. In 1316 it was granted by Roger de Rugge to John Neuman de la Sele and Beatrix, his wife, with reversion to Richard de Pympe and Margaret, his wife. It appears to have passed into the hands of the Gaynesfords in 1332 ; in the early part of the fifteenth century it was in the possession of William de Newdigate, and from his descendants it came back to the Gaynesfords towards the close of the fifteenth century, and was granted by John Gaynesford to Sir Richard Carew. It afterwards returned to the Gaynesfords, and in the seventeenth century passed to Sir Thomas Hoskyns of Oxted as part of that manor.

The district towards the Kentish border contains little that is notable ; it appears to have been part of the wooded district known as Gildable, a name still borne by one of the farms in the corrupted form of Gilderbus.

There is still a large extent of woodland known as Stafford's Wood—a name recalling the days when the property was owned by the Earls of Stafford—where the tender green of the young

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beeches fringes either side of the road, but most of the farmhouses are either new or rebuilt ; the clay land is left behind as the ground rises on to Limpsfield Common, a large expanse of rough land covered with old furze, heather, and bracken, and from the south-western portion providing some fine views over the low-lying weald which we have left behind.

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The crest of the common is occupied by a large modern school, erected by the Church Missionary Society in 1887, and the village straggles down towards the valley. The prettiest part is at the crossing of the Westerham road, where there is a little open space with fine trees and a good old brick house (The Bower) dating probably from about 1700. Beyond this there is a continuous street of old and new houses extending to the church ; north of the churchyard there is a good timbered dwelling, formerly the manor house, but now divided into cottages ; it is so much concealed by orchard trees and garden hedges that no sketch of it can be got in the summer-time.

The church is well kept, but not picturesque, the tower with shingled spire occupying an unusual position on the south-east side. There are portions of thirteenth- and fifteenth-century work in the building, and a few of the monuments are of interest. A tomb with a recumbent figure of John, thirteenth Baron Elphinstone, and a brass in memory of his uncle, the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay and Historian of India, who died at Hookwood in 1859 ; under this, on an upright slab, is a brass to "George Elyott, Esquire and Groome

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to the privie chamber to ye Queen (Henrietta Maria) who dyed 1644."

There are two Stanhope tablets, one to Eugenia Stanhope, 1783 ; this is the lady who married the natural son to whom the "Letters" were addressed by the Earl of Chesterfield, and who published them after her husband's death. On the north wall there is a tablet to the daughter of a great lawyer who could accommodate himself to every change of government profitably—"Dame Martha Gresham, relict of Sir Edward Gresham, daughter of Sir John Maynard, knight, sergeant-at-law, and one of the Lords Commissioners of ye great seal of England, who died January 4 17¹¹/₁₂."

It is curious to find an example of the doubt caused by Chesterfield's alteration of the calendar recorded in a country church alongside the tomb of his son.

On the south wall are many tablets of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to members of the Hylton, Strong, Rudsell, Teulon, and Biscoe families.

Practically all the internal fittings appear to date from the restoration of 1871, except the font—a square basin with a centre stem and four angle shafts—and a holy water stoup of pewter, wisely secured by a stout chain ; these are both ancient. On one side of the chancel arch part of an old doorway is visible.

The large house south from the church was purchased by Mrs. Eugenia Stanhope from Richard Savage, and is now, or was recently, still the property of her descendants ; it is now the Rectory.

Hookwood, a little way east from the church, was formerly a residence belonging to the Gresham family, and was sold by



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one of them to John Godfrey ; it descended from him to the Hyltons and Biscoes, the last of whom rebuilt the house in 1810, and later it became the property of the Gower family. It is now occupied by the Hon. Mrs. S. Leveson Gower.

Several of the most picturesque cottages in the village have been rebuilt in recent years, and now there is no example of any consequence left, though, from its situation, the village is pretty, and there is fine colour in the roofs looking downwards from the sandpit across the valley to the great plantation at Titsey ; this is the view I have given.

While working there I was interviewed by a thick-set old man with a fringe of grizzly beard framing his ruddy face, and clad in a velvet coat, corduroys, and leggings. “ Want a settin’ of ducks’ eggs ?—good sorts, three shillings a dozen. No use for them ! Ah well ! ”—seating himself on the grass—“ pretty work, yourn. Often thought I’d like to do that ’stead o’ grubbin’ about on the land, which is thirsty work this weather—nigh as bad as trampin’ round trying to sell duck eggs as nobody wants ; it’s gettin’ a bit late in season for hatching ducks. I wouldn’t do it myself, but I thought maybe you was one of them chaps from the new houses as has come back to the land, as they calls it. Yes ; I could do with a drop of ale. Allus drinks that—only once had sperrits ; they was give me by a Scotch farmer up on the hill. I wanted some water with it. ’E said it didn’t want no water, but I insisted on it, and had a tearin’ headache next mornin’. I says to him, ‘ That liquor of yours just about killed me.’ Wot d’ye think ’e said ? ‘ The whisky did ye no harm ; it was the daamed watter ye put to it.’ ”

At the Domesday Survey the manor was part of the

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endowments of the newly founded Abbey of Battle, and then was a well-inhabited and flourishing place, a church, a fishery, and a mill being mentioned, with twenty-five villeins, six bordarii—small holders or crofters having patches of land on the borders of the wood, freemen, but without the full rights of the village community; these men, in the intervals of their employment of breaking in new land from the waste, supplied day labour as required by the larger holders, and if they succeeded in sufficiently extending their land, were ultimately eligible for enfranchisement by the lord of the manor. Three eyries of hawks and pannage for one hundred and fifty swine are also specified; the hawks were a jealously guarded perquisite of the lord of the manor or his superior, and the oak and beech woods were as valuable for the number of swine they could support as for their timber. The land then under the plough is noted as twelve carucates—about twelve hundred acres—probably there is no more plough-land worked at this day. A very small brook still flows from Titsey Park, but this is hardly sufficient to drive a mill now. Two stone quarries are also mentioned, and this industry still survives in a small way.

After the dissolution of Battle Abbey the manor was granted in 1539 to Sir John Gresham, his wife, and his heirs, and was held by his descendants until after the death of Sir Marmaduke Gresham in 1742, when all his estates in Surrey and Kent were sold. Limpsfield was purchased by Bouchier Cleeve in 1750; ten years later it was sold, and repeatedly changed hands before it came into the possession of Sir Robert Mackreth and Mr. Dawes; they sold it in 1778 to John Heaton, and from him it passed a year afterwards to Sir John Gresham,

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son of Sir Marmaduke, and by the marriage of his granddaughter in 1804 it passed to William Leveson Gower, with whose descendants it still remains.

The road towards Westerham crosses the common and then dips down with woodlands on both sides ; on this higher ground the flowers are later, and the open spaces of the coppice are beautiful exceedingly, with sheets of blue bells stretching on and on like glimpses of fairyland and always gathering new enchantments as they fade into the distance. The little roadside streams run eastward here to join the Darent and so reach the Thames at Dartford. There is a large old farm at Moorhouse and, a little beyond, a clump of beeches on the crest of the hill—the “ Surrey beeches ”—a landmark known from a great distance as marking the county boundary.

While here it is worth the while of a modern pilgrim to walk a mile farther through beautiful Kentish scenery, a cheerful little stream trotting by the roadside, past the fine old house of Squerres, and on to Westerham, where General Wolfe was born in the vicarage. The statue erected to his memory stands on the village green, and, though we are accustomed to associate statues of this description with urban surroundings, this fine figure does not seem out of place, and certainly perpetuates the memory of Wolfe better than if it were placed in a crowded street or a London square. Quebec House, where his father subsequently resided, has recently been acquired for the Canadian people.

Turning back into Surrey, at Moorhouse Farm a road on the left leads for nearly a mile through the wood known as High Chart and out on to the common at Chart village, where there is

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a new church, the remains of a windmill, and a few cottages. This open space is generally dotted with the figures of patients from the two convalescent homes near by—quiet, worn men and women, young and middle-aged, walking or resting in the sun and trying to regain the strength they have lost in the great city, many of them fretting as they grow stronger to get away from the spicy scent of the gorse and the sunshine, back to the roar of the streets and the “something doing” of London.

At the western end of this space part of the common has been enclosed, and there are a number of fine new houses; one of these, bearing the name of Tenchleys, is the residence of E. Brodie Hoare, Esq.; but the old manor house of that name is situated nearly a mile farther south, at the bottom of the hill, and is reached by a path through the wood and a field lane. This property was part of the Crown woodlands known as the Gildable, which was granted to George Holmden by the surveyors of Queen Elizabeth in 1574, and probably the oldest parts of the present house were built by him soon afterwards.

A portion of the estate, now known as Stockenden Farm, was sold by the Holmdens in 1622 to Henry Smith, who bestowed it on the parish of Croydon for charitable purposes.

Tenchleys was afterwards occupied by Mr. Rauleigh, and subsequently became the property and residence of Anthony Teulon. It is now owned by Mrs. Sonnenschein and is the residence of Mrs. Mackenzie. Considerable alterations have been made on the exterior of the house; the timbering has been covered with hung tiles, and the upper part of one of the old chimney-stacks has been rebuilt; this is of the usual type in



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timber dwellings, built entirely outside the wall, and in this instance the stonework is carried up to provide a fireplace in the upper room as well as on the ground floor.

Two of the old rooms are fine, the upper one particularly so, panelled throughout with old oak and having a finely carved mantelpiece ; the woodwork appears to date from about 1600. The lower room is similar in character, but the mantelpiece is not quite so good. The hall, or kitchen, is a fine apartment with an immense fireplace, projecting beyond the gable end ; the drawing shows the exterior of this, with the old chimney-stack. There are gardens and orchards on two sides of the house, and the remains of a great walnut tree, which may have been planted when the house was built, but still bears fruit.

There is another house of about the same date a short distance away, with the moat which gives its name, still in existence ; it is possible that the primary purpose of the moat here, and in some other places in Surrey, was to provide a piece of dry land for the site of the house. In every direction there are springs of water, and by the doubtful path leading upwards by the side of the fields one may wade rather than walk to Paines Hill, out through the woods to the yellow gorse on Limpsfield Common.

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There are three roads leading westward to Oxted ; all are fringed with new houses and modern cottages ; the most southerly, the Godstone road, is the prettiest. There is little

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open ground, except a small valley near the railway, but there are fine old trees on either side nearly all the way to Old Oxted. Beyond the clear running brook this village street rises up the steep ground on the west, closely set together, in the evening light it is quite picturesque, lacking only a grey church tower to complete the picture. But when the village is entered, the charm vanishes at once ; the houses are of no great age, mean in construction, and often squalid ; perhaps owing to the thirsty nature of the employment followed by most of the villagers (lime-burning), there is a liberal allowance of modernised public-houses. At the upper end the " Bell Inn " is a fine old timber house, and the only redeeming feature in the place ; outwardly this appears to date from late in the sixteenth century, but some portions of the interior lead one to think that the house is a good deal older than that. The present wide spacing of the external timbers may arise from hacking off and plastering over those intervening, to get rid of the draughts and damp percolating alongside the closely set woodwork.

Some parts of the house are modern, but several of the rooms have heavily timbered ceilings ; a good chimney corner has been spoiled by senseless new additions, but there is a fine old fire-back and a few other relics of days that are gone.

The road on the west side of this leads through pleasant beech wood, across the rising ground—with a fine view of Oxted Church and the country to the east—and down into the valley near Barrow Green Court. There is a farm and a mill beyond, but no village ; the house stands back some distance from the road—a fine old brick mansion dating from the seventeenth century, but altered somewhat in the nineteenth.



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The dormer windows may have been added more than a century ago, but the projecting oriels have been added within the last thirty years. I understand that in time these will be removed and the house restored to near its original condition, with flat, stone mullioned windows. The situation is extremely pleasant and the house is a restful sort of place, away from the traffic of the world and eminently suited to be the dwelling of men who set out to teach their fellows how to arrange their thoughts and guide their actions ; if these teachers sometimes failed to carry out their own precepts, after all, that is only the difference between theory and practice.

No doubt the peaceful surroundings was part of the attraction for that self-complacent philosopher who laid hold of Dr. Priestley's facile phrase, "The greatest happiness of the greatest number," and ruled his theories by it. Jeremy Bentham advocated some changes which have come to pass, including secret voting and the payment of Members of Parliament, and others from which we are still saved ; it is doubtful if he would have regarded the results with enthusiasm.

He kept open house at Barrow Green for his friends, and about the years 1812-14 James Mill, the historian of British India, and his family lived here with him. Mill was a cold-tempered, strict man, and a person of great influence in the conduct of the affairs of "John Company" in Leadenhall Street, but he did not provide much happiness for those with whom he had to deal. Bentham only lived here in the summer-time, and thereby perhaps he showed more sense in keeping himself comfortable than the historian who occupied the house about forty years afterwards.

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Grote leased the house in 1859 and went there in the autumn ; Mrs. Grote describes the winter following as terribly severe, and the old house imperfectly provided with the means of warding off the cold. "The firegrates would seem to have been placed there under the Commonwealth, or coeval with the chimneys, one of them in fact bore the date 1649, and its capacity of affording warmth corresponded with its age."

During their tenure another philosopher was their guest, and John Stuart Mill "took a lively pleasure in retracing the scenes of his childhood and in recalling personal recollections of Jeremy Bentham connected with the spot." The house nestles close under the downs ; there are many fine oaks, beeches, and firs in the park, and a pretty little trout stream makes pleasant music close by the garden as it wanders down the meadows past the wooded tumulus which gives the house its name, on its way to join the Eden and the Medway.

Barrow Green Court is the manor house of Oxted. In ancient days the manor was held from the king by the service of two knights' fees, by Hugo de Nevill, who died in 1240 ; this portion was transferred with his daughter in marriage to John de Cobham of Sterborough, and was held by that family until the death of Sir Thomas Cobham in 1471. His daughter and heiress, Ann, married Sir Edward Borough, and this, with another portion of the manor, which had been acquired by a member of the Cobham family from Roland de Acstede, came into his possession. In 1578 William, Lord Borough, conveyed it with the advowson to John Rede, the owner of Oatlands, but now transferred to Tandridge ; nine years later it was transferred

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by him to Charles Hoskins, a merchant of London, with whose descendants, though not in the male line, it has remained since. Charles Hoskins, the last male heir, left one daughter, who married three times, but died in 1798 without issue; the inheritance devolved on her aunt, Mrs. Master, and thence to her sons and grandsons. The present owner is C. H. Master, Esq., and the residence is in the occupation of Sir Arthur Lever.

Returning by the road to the north-east, past some hop-fields, a path goes straight towards the church, prettily situated on a small knoll, with a low, square tower. The building is of many dates from Norman downwards, but has been very unfortunate; injured by lightning, it was restored in 1637; again in 1719 "the church and chancel were burnt by a great tempest of lightning," the spire was destroyed, and the bells melted; the church was restored and replaced in 1729, and again there was a vigorous restoration in 1877.

There are many monuments to members of the Hoskins family, including two small brasses on the south wall to John Hoskins, 1613, and another to Thomas Hoskins and his wife.

A good brass to John Ynge, rector in 1428, is said to exist in the chancel, but I did not see it. The most imposing monument is that to John Aldersey, haberdasher and merchant of London . . . who died in 1616, being seventy-five years of age. "Having lived wth his wiff, Anna, in y holy Æstate of matrimony 46 years and had ysue 17 children." Figures of man and wife in ruff and gown kneeling; below in a frieze are represented the ten sons and seven daughters. Traces of colour are visible on the monument.

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Some of the Hoskins tombs have rather lugubrious inscriptions, as—

“Let this
Patterne of Piety
Mapp of Misery
Mirrour of Patience
Here rest.”

Another is among the worst of tombstone verses existing—

“Let those of after ages know,
This vertuous woman here below
Was stable in religion, pious in life,
A charitable creature, and humble wife
In her affliction dolorous and many,
Her patience scarcely paralled by any ;
Of perfect happiness she could not miss
Led by such graces to eternal bliss.”

There are wall tablets and inscriptions to various members of the Hale and Finch families, and one to “Phillipa Rouse, daughter of Sir John Rouse of Henham Hall, in ye county of Suffolk, 1712.”

The screen, panelling, and some of the pews are new ; a wonderful iron chest with many bolts shot by a single key stands at the bottom of the stairs leading to the gallery, which also has a stair and entrance from the outside.

Several pieces of silver plate were presented to the church by the wife of the third Duke of Devonshire in 1750 ; this lady was Catherine Hoskins, daughter and heiress of John Hoskins, Esq., of Red Lion Square, London. Her father's grave is outside the east window of the church.

There is little else of interest in New Oxted ; near the railway station there is a pseudo-sixteenth-century house, but this, I

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think, is newly built of old materials. The other manors in Oxted are Burstled, Broadham, Foyle, and Stocketts.

Burstled was owned by the priory of Tandridge, and was granted by Henry VIII. to John Rede, whose son sold it to Richard Bostock; it passed in 1577 to Edward Johnson, who sold it in 1582 to Richard Hayward, and remained with that family until 1681, when it was sold by Sir William Hayward; and was owned by Mr. Burrough, Mr. Edwards, and Sir Joseph Jekyll successively. Sold under the will of the latter, it passed to John Godfrey, who left it to Marmaduke Hilton, who died in 1768, and gave it to Vincent Biscoe; from that family it passed in 1808 to Sir William W. Pepys.

Broadham manor belonged to the Abbey of Battle, and was granted in 1539 to Sir John Gresham; it remained with the Gresham family until 1718, when it was conveyed to John Blundell of Godstone; through the intestacy of one of his successors, the manor was divided into six portions. Five of these came into the ownership of Admiral Sir Richard Hughes, and at his death Mr. Bryant came into possession of the whole, which afterwards passed to the Duke of Norfolk, from whose executors it was purchased by Colonel Clayton, and after his death sold to Edward Kelsey. Broadham manor house is now occupied by Henry A. Payne, Esq.

The manor of Foyle belonged to the Marchants before 1400, and in 1420 came into the hands of the Gaynesfords. In 1608 it was owned by Thomas, Earl of Dorset, and afterwards by the Farindons of Lingfield; by one of them it was sold to the Streatfields, who sold it to John Wells, from whom it was purchased in 1841 by W. Leveson Gower. Stocketts was owned

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by a family of that name before 1345, and remained with their descendants in various portions until about the end of the seventeenth century. A brass to one of the ladies of the family has been noticed in Lingfield Church. Both of these manors have been incorporated with others, and the names only survive in Foyle Farm, near Merle Common, and Stocks Farm, west from Crowhurst.

The road from Oxted nearest the downs passes by Grange and Park Farms to the gate of Titsey Place. The park is a fine expanse of rolling land, with many large old hawthorns, native forest trees, and some well-grown Wellington pines ; the house is tucked into the north-east corner and screened from winter winds by the downs and a large wood.

Its sheltered situation was discovered long ago, and considerable remains of a Roman villa exist in the park, near the brook, a little way south from the present house.

After the Conquest the land was owned by Richard de Tonbridge, who granted one part to Hamo de Valoinnes and another to a family named de Titsey ; from them it had reverted to the Clares by the time of Edward 1. In 1295 Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, was the owner, and his son Gilbert died at Bannockburn in 1314 ; leaving no issue, the estates were divided among three sisters. Titsey became the property of Hugh de Audeley, he having married Margaret de Clare after the death of her first husband, Piers Gaveston ; by the marriage of their only daughter, Margaret, to Ralph, Earl of Stafford, the property was transferred to that family and remained in their hands until 1521, when Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was executed for treason ; his estates were escheated to the Crown,

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and granted by Henry VIII. in 1528 to John Bouchier, Lord Berners. Another portion owned by the de Titseys passed by marriage to the Uvedales, two of whom were sheriffs of Surrey in 1417, 1437, and 1464. Sir William Uvedale was treasurer of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII., and his grandson married Ellen, daughter of Sir John Gresham, mercer, and Lord Mayor of London in 1547, who purchased the estate from his son-in-law.

The advent of the Greshams and other wealthy citizens, with their keen business instincts, resulted in the transfer of many manors and estates in Surrey as elsewhere ; all of them had the ambition to found or refound their families on the solid basis of the ownership of land, though time proved that their families decayed, as a rule, even more rapidly than those whom they succeeded ; sometimes they kept on adding acre to acre and extending their mansions, for a few generations only—in some notable instances they did not endure even for one generation. Among those who, with many ups and downs, remain to the present day must be reckoned the owners of Titsey. Although many of their estates were sold in 1745, Titsey remained in their hands ; the last Lady Gresham died in 1804, and in the same year Miss Gresham was married to William Leveson Gower. Their descendant, G. C. G. Leveson Gower, Esq., is the present owner.

The old mansion is said to have been entirely pulled down and rebuilt by Sir John Gresham about the close of the eighteenth century, but some of the chimneys and parts of the back of the present house have an older appearance than that date ; this, however, may arise from the use of materials from the

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older mansion. The old church which stood near by was rebuilt by Sir Thomas Uvedale, who in his will, dated 1367, ordered that his wife should finish the work and that he should be buried there ; this also was pulled down by Sir John Gresham and removed entirely, with the exception of one altar tomb belonging to the Staples family, which was railed in and surrounded by shrubs. Why this was left, I have been entirely unable to discover ; it remains a mystery to the old country folks, yet, for a wonder, no story has been woven about it.

The church erected on the other side of the road, and outside the park, was described as a mean edifice of brick and stone in which the tombs of the Greshams and others from the ancient church were rearranged. In 1861 this was superseded by the present handsome stone building designed by Mr. Pearson ; the north transept serves as a chapel, and contains the tombs of the Greshams and Gowers, but somehow these have lost much of their interest when thus replaced in a new church ; the building stands on a little knoll by the road, opposite the east gate of Titsey Place, with the downs rising steeply above ; there are a few houses near, but no village ; the wealth of blossom on the trees by the cross-roads in this last week of May was something to enjoy and wonder at.

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Tatsfield Church, perched high upon the ridge, had been a landmark for many days, and from Titsey there are three ways to get there—the broad road sweeping up to Botley Hill, thickly fringed all the way with beech, oak, chestnut, and larch,

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the ground dropping sharply through the dense woodlands on the left, and giving glimpses of forest glades and the low country beyond, shimmering in the hot sunshine.

An old chalk lane, which leaves this road on the right, is a pretty road, and nearer, but rough and slippery after passing showers.

The third way is called the pilgrim road, though it is said to be of modern origin and made to replace the ancient track, which kept more closely to the foot of the high ground ; following this, with highly cultivated fields on both sides for half a mile, Pilgrims' Lodge Farm is reached—the name suggests that a lodging for these wayfarers existed here ; there may have been a collection of relics at Tatsfield Church similar to that at St. Martha's, but there is no record of this. The farmhouse, buildings, and oast-house are all modern ; a path through the steading and straight up the boundary of the fields leads on to the old pilgrim road near a large yew tree ; the old track, partly grass grown, is quite visible, and agrees with Manning's description as to width, despite the offered corrections of more modern writers. Besides the old yew at the end of the field path, which is about four feet in diameter, there are several others, and their age is a difficult problem, the growth of these trees depending apparently a great deal on their surroundings ; planted in this barren chalk, they may be twice the age, though only half the girth, of another growing in a churchyard. From these yews the path ascends steeply to the brow of the hill, where there are more yew trees and cross-roads, one of these running northward to Tatsfield Church—a plain little building with so little evident history that its dedication is unknown ; excepting one cottage near by, it

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is quite solitary, a few trees, an old yew, and a little churchyard surrounded by open fields. The tower and porch are nineteenth-century work ; the roof is new ; the present font is not the one illustrated by Manning and Bray. There is one hatchment, and the memorials are few ; a grave slab to Valentine Hayward, 1731, one to William Louttit, 1822, a monument to Alice Corbett, 1710 . . . “who was exemplary virtuous,” and John Corbett of St. Saviour’s, Southwark, Carpinder, 1711, “a person truly ingenious, to whose memory their eldest son of three only living, John Corbett, citizen and paper-stainer of London, gave this monument, with the altarpiece and the Queen’s Arms, in 1712.”

There is no trace of the altarpiece—described as a painting of the interior of a Gothic church—but the Queen’s Arms, said by Brayley to have been removed, will be found in a niche in the south wall, which has been the original doorway. There are various fragments of thirteenth-century work in the building, but except to antiquaries these are of little interest.

The view from the churchyard is one of the finest in Surrey, extending about 160° of a circle ; perhaps the best segment of this is from east to south, extending so far into Kent that Seven-oaks is quite near in the distance. The other segment which I have painted extends from High Chart round to the high land near Reigate ; on the right, near at hand, is the spire of Titsey Church ; beyond that, Old and New Oxted, and faint on the horizon an eminence which I take to be Chanctonbury Ring. Directly south is Limpsfield, the chimney-stack of Crowhurst brickfield, and the high ground by East Grinstead ; at the bottom of the near slope is Pilgrims’ Lodge Farm.



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Anciently the land was owned by Edward the Confessor : at the Domesday Survey by the Bishop of Bayeux. "Anschild de Ros holds of the Bishop, Tatelefelle, which Aluric held of King Edward ; it was then assessed at half a hide, now at the same. There is one carucate (about one hundred acres) in the demesne, there are five villeins, and nine bordars with one carucate ; there are twelve bondmen. Hugh holds of the Bishop one manor which Cana held of King Edward, now assessed at half a hide. The arable land amounts to four carucates, one carucate in the demesne, five villeins, and two bordars." In the first of these the villeins were probably herdsmen, as no arable land is mentioned, and there are nearly as many slaves as freemen.

In 1309 Roderic Fitz Griffin was lord of the manor ; in 1322 it was owned by Thomas Fitz Roderic. His son Owen in 1367 went to France, and fought against the Black Prince ; for this act of disloyalty it was proposed to seize his lands, but the jury appointed found he had none ; having before his departure released his right in his father's property to Roger de Stanyngdenn, while his father had transferred his rights to Thomas Bradpole, the rector, Alan Lambard, and Roger de Stanyngdenn ; while they collectively had conveyed the estate to Thomas de Uvedale for their lives—at that time the manor was held from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Having got the manor into their hands, the family of de Uvedale retained their hold until about 1634, when Sir William Uvedale sold it to the Greshams. On a partition of their estates in 1711 this portion fell to Sir Charles Gresham, who sold it to Sir Isaac Shard ; it was described as "the manor of Tatsfield,

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with courts, quit rents, etc., three farms of about five hundred acres, let at £190 per annum, and forty acres of wood in hand." When sold in 1775, Sir John Gresham was the purchaser, and by him the ancient manor house, Tatsfield Court Lodge, was demolished, and the site thrown into a field. This house stood a little way north from the church, and Mr. Vincent informed me that while the field was in his occupation recently, the foundations interfered with the proper cropping of the ground.

Another ancient mansion, named Salcotts or Calcotts, belonged to the College of Lingfield, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Cawarden, by whose heir it was sold to William, Lord Howard, who in 1564 conveyed it to Sir Richard Sackville, whose son, Lord Buckhurst, sold it to Walter Henley, who conveyed it in 1597 to Sir Thomas Gresham.

The parish is a series of ridges and hollows, but without a stream or brook of any kind, a straggling village in which all the houses are modern, including a desolate freak which is called a castle, and is built like a pocket edition of one, and an excellent inn, "The Ship," though it bears a curious name, situated as it is in a parish where, except when it is raining, all the water is in pipes.

About a mile north from the village by paths across the fields is Bedlested Farm; externally the house has nothing of interest, but the timbering of the kitchen is extremely fine—probably the best in any farmhouse in Surrey—with close-set, moulded joists and beams of oak; the workmanship is excellent, and probably dates from the beginning of the fifteenth century. At an adjoining farm, Cheverells, there is a large old barn, but nothing else of note.

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Both these farms are tenanted by Mr. M'Bey, and are devoted to sheep raising, for which the land appears particularly suitable.

The antiquities of this pleasant district are not reckoned very highly by the inhabitants; the assets on which they pride themselves are the atmosphere, and their 788 feet above sea-level; certainly it is extremely pleasant to one who has spent many weeks in the languid air of the valleys and the weald; the district council advertise the air by means of illustrated tablets as resembling champagne, and wonderful stories are told of its invigorating properties. There are few tramps, and this is explained by the change that comes over these wanderers as they climb slowly up the long slope by Worms Heath; their vital energy is so increased, their pleasure in walking so intensified, that they keep on until they find themselves at the bottom of Titsey Hill, or down towards Westerham, before they are aware; then, looking back, they do not have the heart to climb up again. If one points out that a colony of gipsies live in the valley—ah! they are an artful people, and take care to stop down below, never coming on the high ground when they can avoid it.

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The road to the west follows the ridge of the down to Botley Hill, a name said to be a corruption of Battle Hill, and connected in old tradition with some fields bearing the name of Barrow leys at Woldingham. London is visible far away in its mantle of smoke, and the glass roof of the Crystal Palace twinkles like a bunch of opals through the haze. There are cross-roads

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near the highest point, one continuing along the ridge past Oxted chalk-pit, with fine views over the lower lands, but nothing else of interest. The road to the north is shadowed by a long avenue of beech trees, very beautiful in early summer or late autumn, but grumbled at by timid and prosaic persons for keeping the road wet, and making an impenetrable gloom after nightfall; a deep combe, gay with thorn bushes now in their last stage of flower, with a new road constructed on one side leads down towards Woldingham; this was one of the disastrous land development schemes of the Liberator Society, but now, in other hands, is proving something of a success; besides the farm of Nether Court there is a sprinkling of new houses all the way to the railway station.

The parish has little history. Fifty years ago it contained eight houses and two farms, Upper and Nether Court. The "old desolate, dilapidated church," for the repair of which John Evelyn pleaded in vain with Sir Robert Clayton, has been repaired, restored, and rebuilt by Sir Walpole Greenwell, his successor in Marden Park, until there is little left to repay a visit. There is no old village, but there are now many modern houses of the better class.

The two farms constitute two separate manors. Upper Court Lodge was held by the ancestors of the de Walton family at the Domesday Survey, from Richard de Clare; in 1290 they had a dispute with their superiors, and the bailiffs of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, took possession of the manor, but John de Walton continued to hold the manor courts, and receive the rents; the dispute continued among the descendants of both parties for about half a century, but in the end the de Waltons

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lost their hold, and the manor became the property of the Lords Stafford, remaining in their hands till the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in 1521. After a temporary grant to Lord Berners, the estate was granted to Sir John Gresham, and was sold by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1630 to Henry Bynes, whose family held it until 1795, when it was sold to William Bryant, and by him, in 1808, to William Jones, whose descendants held it for many years. Nether Court Lodge also belonged to the Clares, and, about the middle of the fourteenth century, was held by John de la Mare de Woldingham, from whom it passed in 1363 to Thomas de Uvedale, whose descendants held it till 1529, when Arthur Uvedale sold it to Sir John Gresham. Sir Thomas Gresham sold Nether Court Lodge to Richard Hayward, whose descendants held it until the early part of the nineteenth century. Sir Walpole Greenwell is now the principal landowner.

Northward from Woldingham is Nore Hill,—formerly a semaphore station, and the fine open tract of Worms Heath, covered with gorse and thorn bushes; one portion, near Slines Oaks Farm, is described as an old earth-work or camp, but no lines of it can now be traced. Much inquiry has been expended on the pits which occur on this heath; one tradition describes them as places of refuge dug at the time of the Danish invasion, while another antiquary did not hesitate to award them a much greater antiquity—as human dwellings before Stonehenge was built, while in modern days they have been described as gravel pits; let the learned decide. The name of the heath seems to hint at the existence there of some great dragon, or worm, but there is no tradition to that effect.

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Warlingham once possessed a common of three hundred acres which was described as one of the loveliest near London, but so recently as 1865 this was enclosed, five acres being retained as a recreation ground for the people. Probably now, when it has grown to be a small modern town, the ground would have been of greater value as common land than it is under cultivation. There is, I think, only one old house in the village, the "White Lion" tavern; this, though altered on the outside, preserves much of its ancient internal woodwork, a fine chimney corner with some modern additions, and two old fire-backs, undated; one has a parrot as part of the decoration—a bird which appears in the crest of the Zouches and the Lumleys.

The little church stands at some distance north from the old part of the village, and has a few points of interest. Dating probably from the thirteenth century, it has suffered much alteration, having been repaired, restored, and enlarged at least four different times. The font is probably of fifteenth-century date; there is a good wall-painting of St. Christopher opposite the south door; and a stained-glass window recording the tradition that this was the church where the revised prayer book of Edward VI. was first used.

There are three manors in the parish—Warlingham, Creuses, and West Hall. The first of these was given by Robert and William de Wateville, in 1144, to the prior and monks of Bermondsey, and granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Gresham. It was held by his descendants until 1591, when Richard Gresham sold Warlingham and Sanderstead to John Ownsted, who died without issue in 1600, leaving two-thirds of his Surrey estates to his cousin, Harman Attwood, who purchased the other share

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from his sisters. From him the manor descended to the Wigsell family—now represented by E. F. Wigsell Arkwright, who is lord of the manor.

The manor of Creuses was held at an early period by the family of Sander of Sanderstead. In 1353 one of these conveyed it to Sir Richard Willoughby, whose daughter married Nicholas Carew; but by the marriage of his granddaughter to William Saunders it reverted to that family, and was held by their descendants until 1590, when it was sold to Edward Weston, and, after passing through several hands, was purchased in 1717 by John Heathfield of Croydon, and held by his family until 1804. It afterwards became the property of G. R. Smith of Selsdon.

The manor of West Hall in the twelfth century was owned by Odo de Dammartin, and by him was given to the Priory of Tandridge. After the dissolution of the monasteries it came into the hands of John Rede of Oatlands, and by his son it was sold to Henry Hayward, an alderman of London. It was afterwards acquired by Sir Joseph Jekyll, and at his death was sold to the Clayton family of Marden Park; this and Creuses are now farms.

From the old village of Warlingham a gradual descent among good modern houses for about one and a half miles leads down to Whyteleafe. The scene here is not an inviting one: two lines of railway, a main road, and a slummy modern town occupy the whole of the little valley, and it is without regret that one gets clear of the houses and travels towards Woldingham Station; from near this a beautiful walk leads through Marden Park towards Godstone.

This is the estate acquired by Sir Robert Clayton from Sir

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John Evelyn of Godstone. The diarist has much to say about Marden and its owner, with whom his friendship has been lifelong, beginning when Robert Clayton was a boy in the service of his uncle, Abbot, a scrivener, "an honest worthy man." Clayton, with a fellow-apprentice, inherited the business and became "so prodigiously rich and opulent, that he was reckoned one of the wealthiest citizens. He married a free-hearted woman who became his hospitable disposition." He was Lord Mayor in 1679; his partner, Morris, died and left his wealth to him, and, having no children, "he grew excessively rich." Reputed a hard man, Evelyn says, "I never saw any ill of him *considering the trade he was of*." The Evelyns had no dwelling there, only a farmhouse—"a barren warren where Clayton built a pretty house and planted a store of the best fruits and many trees, and so improved it that I, who had seen it some years before in its naked and barren condition, was in admiration of it." In 1677 he had noted many improvements in this solitude among the hills, though it lacked running water and was exceeding sharp in winter. "All the ground is full of wild thyme, marjoram, and other sweet plants." These still abound, especially in the lower park; and the monument erected by Clayton in memory of his friend, Thomas Firmin, still stands; this memorial to an amiable man of most unbounded charity, who shared many of Evelyn's tastes, was repaired and renewed by John Hatsell, who occupied the house for a time. The "pretty house" has been superseded by a modern mansion, the residence of Sir Walpole Greenwell.

One romance of the nineteenth century attaches to Marden Park. Lord Drumlanrig, afterwards seventh Marquis of Queens-

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berry, eloped from here with Caroline, daughter of Sir W. R. Clayton ; discarding the traditional coach, they rode on horseback all the way to Gretna Green, where, according to the register, they were married on 25th May 1840.

Towards the south gate the downs rise, fold on fold like ripples of grey velvet, above the road, and in the summer twilight appear almost as solitary as when John Evelyn described the place. The so-called castle near this is merely a summer house with a wooden tower and a flagstaff, erected at a point which commands wide views over Kent, Surrey, and Sussex ; beneath this a rough but very beautiful road leads past Quarry Farm through the beech woods to the Caterham Road.

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Southwards the road leads to Godstone ; this and the avenue through Marden Park must have been the old main road before the more direct and easier way through Godstone village and Caterham was constructed.

A little way down this road a glimpse is obtained of the house of Flower—a manor held by Richard Dene about the middle of the fifteenth century, by Sir John Rivers in 1632, afterwards by the Evelyns and Claytons, and more recently by the proprietor of Rooks' Nest.

Rooks' Nest adjoins this on the east. It was part of the Tandridge Priory estates granted by Henry VIII. to John Rede, and sold by his son to Richard Bostock ; it was afterwards owned by George Roffey of Camberwell, who also held estates in Chaldon. After his death it was sold by his heirs in 1711 to

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Charles Boone, and at his death it passed to his son Daniel. From an inscription in Godstone Church it would appear that the father, Charles, married the widow, and the son, Daniel, the daughter, of George Evelyn. Probably they shared in the decay of the Godstone branch of the Evelyn family, as Rooks' Nest was sold in 1758, and passed through many hands before it was acquired by the Turner family in 1817. It is still owned by their descendant, Capt. Charles H. Turner, and at present occupied by W. J. M. MacCaw, Esq.

Godstone Church has been so dealt with by a famous architect of the nineteenth century that scarcely one old stone is visible; the almshouses beside it were erected in 1872 by Mrs. Hunt of Wonham.

The principal interest of the interior is the tombs, and of these the superb black-and-white marble monument of Sir John Evelyn and his wife, Dame Thomasin, is the most elaborate; it is rather curious that John Evelyn describes the figure of the knight as of white marble. The long inscription, with many names, records his branch of the family. The date of the marriage of Sir John and Dame Thomasin is given—1618—but there is no date of their deaths. There is a mural monument with a long inscription in Latin to Jacobi Evelyn, 1793; one to Edward Evelyn, 1751; and in the east wall are brasses to Tomazin Evelyn, 1643; Richard, a child, 1637; and to George Holman ye younger, citizen and grocer of London, 1624, and Susan Holman.

“Shee was in her lifetime loving to all and pitiful to ye
poore, witness ye weekly pension she hath given
forever to ye poore of this parish.”

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Alas ! for good intentions ; a note in Manning and Bray says : “ The parish laid out the money thus given in purchase of land, on which they built the poorhouse, so that the poor have no benefit from it.”

A mural monument to Mrs. Francis Glanville : “ She married William, the fifth son of George Evelyn of Nutfield, who on ye occasion took the name and arms of Glanville, 1719.” On the south wall there is a tablet to one of their family, who had reverted to his own name, George Raymond Evelyn, son of William Evelyn Glanville of St. Clere, who married Lady Jane Elizabeth Leslie, daughter of the Earl of Rothes ; he died in 1770. The lady afterwards married Sir Lucas Pepys, and at the death of her brother became Countess of Rothes—her tomb has been noticed at Wotton. There are modern brasses and a tomb of five members of the M’Leay family ; tablets to Thomas Packenham, vicar, who died in 1675 ; Rev. Charles E. de Coetlogan, 1820 ; and his son, Charles Frederick, 1836 ; James Hatsell of Marden Park, 1812 ; and several to the Boones of Rooks’ Nest, the latest of these being Thomas Boone, 1798. One wonders if the Daniel Boone of Fenimore Cooper’s story was a descendant of this family.

The font is partly fifteenth century, but restored ; and except one row of pews everything else is new.

The church is finely situated on rising ground by the side of the old road, the churchyard sloping gently eastward to meadows with a brook and a tree-fringed pond.

A footpath or bridleway leads from the church to the village at Godstone Green. The only house of any antiquity here now is the “ White Hart ” Inn, which claims to have been

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established in the fourteenth century and enlarged in the sixteenth. There is no work visible now which dates further back than Elizabethan times, and not much of that outside except one stack of chimneys ; it contains one large, finely timbered room, formerly much used for rent-day feasts, and courts, in the days when court-houses were few and magistrates dispensed justice comfortably at an inn ; a lock-up room for prisoners is still part of the premises, but no longer used for that purpose.

Coaching days brought much work to houses like this, and another room was set aside for coachmen and postboys ; in those days there was ample room for everyone, and now there is a superfluity. The antiquity of coaching as a means of public conveyance is usually absurdly over-estimated ; coaches were fairly common in London by the end of the seventeenth century, but in country districts the condition of the roads rendered wheeled vehicles of little use, and the coaching era was comprised in the hundred and fifty years preceding the middle of the nineteenth century. At the present day more motor vehicles than horses pass into the yard ; and the brew-house is no longer in use, but it is a comfortable old house, and contains a good deal of furniture on which many a wayfarer casts envious eyes. A grove of aspens beside the pond whisper all through the summer days and nights, and the green has space enough for games of all sorts, from cricket to polo practice ; the village itself is largely modern, and has little to interest the passer-by.

The large pond, covering many acres on the east side of the village, was no doubt constructed to drive the powder mills of



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the Evelyn family. At what time this manufacture ceased I have not been able to ascertain. It is now merely ornamental water in the private grounds of the house which stands on the site of Godstone Place, the old mansion there being pulled down early in the nineteenth century.

In 1589 George Evelyn of Long Ditton bought Leigh Place with the manors of Merdenne and Wolkhamsted, alias Godstone, for £3100; this gentleman had sixteen sons, and of these either three or four survived him—Thomas, at Long Ditton; John, at Godstone; Richard, at Wotton.

During the troubles with Charles 1. John Evelyn was a Member of Parliament and sided with the opponents of the King; with others he was employed by the Long Parliament to arrange for peace with His Majesty, but Charles 1. took exception to the presence of Sir John Evelyn because he had proclaimed him a traitor, which so offended Parliament that it was voted a refusal of the treaty. Yet afterwards Sir John became an object of suspicion to his colleagues, and was charged with treachery and committed to prison, but was soon released; he had been knighted in 1637. The Godstone estate descended to his grandson, who was created a baronet at the Restoration; he was twice married, but had no legitimate issue, and at his death in 1671 he left all his disposable estate to a young woman named Mary Gittings, by whom he had one daughter. The rest of the property devolved on his brother, George Evelyn of Nutfield; he died in 1699, and the estate was held by three of his sons in succession; Edward, the last of these, obtained an Act of Parliament in 1743 to sell the estates, they being heavily encumbered; and after paying the debts he used part of the

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money in buying the estate of Hedge Court from the trustees of Sir William Gage in 1747. The Godstone estates were bought by Charles Boone; in 1751 Daniel Boone sold the manor of Wolkhamsted and his share in the tithes of Godstone, certain farms and lands in Godstone and Tandridge, and the great town pond, yielding altogether a rent of £600 a year, to Sir Kenrick Clayton, whose son and heir gave for his lifetime the pond and lands in Godstone to his steward, Mr. Graeme; and when he died in 1799, he devised the manor and all his other estates to his cousin, Sir William Clayton. Sir Walpole Greenwell of Marden Park is now the lord of the manor.

Between Godstone Green and Blechingley there are several large houses, but with one exception these are entirely new.

Ivy House has some history; it stands on the site of the manor house of Stangrave. In 1322 this manor was bought from Robert de Botilles by Sir Robert de Stangrave, who a few years later obtained a licence to erect an oratory in his manor; he died in 1361, and was succeeded by Sir John Breton, his cousin; the manor afterwards passed to the Beecher family, and was held by them for nearly a century before 1676, when it was sold to Thomas Northey, an apothecary of London, and held by his descendants until 1759, when it was sold to Sir Kenrick Clayton. The ancient house was taken down by Thomas Northey—to whom there is a tablet in Blechingley Church—and Ivy House built in 1740; it has been largely rebuilt in recent years, and is now in the possession of Arthur H. Brandt, Esq. Chivington Farm, west from this, was in the days of William the Conqueror the principal manor of Blechingley.

BLECHINGLEY AND CATERHAM

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Viewed from the south, the village of Blechingley is rather picturesque and old-fashioned in appearance as it hangs on the hillside, with the square tower of the church showing above the trees, and the cottage gardens. It loses a good deal on closer inspection, but there are still some pretty corners ; the oldest and most picturesque group of houses are near the church gate, but it is not possible to combine the cottages with the church in one picture, and I have drawn the cottages.

Formerly a borough and a market town, the place has much ancient history—some of it fabulous, and a good deal of it scandalous. To the former classification may be referred the tale that seven churches once existed here, and that it was the home of Earl Goodwin after the sea had converted his eastern estate into the Goodwin Sands in the eleventh century. Aubrey's story of a spring that could by a man's hand be turned either into the Medway or the Mole—referring to the spring and ditch at the bottom of the hill—may also be included.

As a rotten borough it took second place to Gatton or Old Sarum only ; from 1294 it returned two members to Parliament, and continued to do so until the Reform Act of 1832. One of its last representatives was Lord Palmerston, and a few years before that, Lord Melbourne was one of them ; another was Matthew Russell, who in 1816 bought the reversion of the borough from William Kenrick, son of a previous rector, for £60,000. In ancient times the number of electors was about one hundred and thirty, but towards the close the number of voters varied from eight to ten. Until 1733 the elections were

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held in a building called the Hall, but after that they were held in the "White Hart" Inn, which had been purchased by Sir William Clayton, then lord of the manor.

In the seventeenth century the proceedings at one of the elections so scandalised Dr. Harris, the rector, that he made some remarks on the subject from the pulpit, and tried to interfere—an intolerable offence to high-principled members of Parliament. He was arrested, brought to the Bar of the House of Commons, sharply admonished, had to confess his fault on his knees, ask pardon of the House, and on Sunday, the week after, in the pulpit of his church, before the sermon, again confess his fault, desire the love of his neighbours, and promise reformation. He died in 1625; there is a tablet to his memory in the church.

A rector who followed him, in 1775, Matthew Kenrick, LL.D., had no such qualms, and bought the reversion of the borough from his cousin, Sir Robert Clayton, his father having in 1745 bought the right of presentation from Sir Kenrick Clayton, a transaction which ended in a lawsuit of no interest nowadays.

The church is a large building with a square tower, which in some portions probably dates from Norman times, formerly surmounted by a lofty spire destroyed by lightning in 1606, and never rebuilt. The east window has been shortened and divided into three lancets, and there is a small tower formerly used as a beacon; the whole exterior has recently been restored and repaired, including the well-executed gargoyles; the general effect is good, though at present more like a new church than an old one.



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The interior and many of the memorials are of great interest ; the huge Clayton monument has been severely criticised, and one can hardly imagine a man in modern days who would erect such a thing, have it inscribed with such a tremendous catalogue of his virtues, concluding with, "It is but just the memory of so good and so great a man should be transmitted to after-ages, since in all the public and private transactions of his life he has left so bright a pattern to imitate but hardly to be outdone," and bear to sit and look at it during public worship, as he did do, for it was erected in his lifetime.

Many of the details so strongly resemble the work of Christopher Wren that the inscription, "Richard Crutchen fecit," may refer only to the actual work, which is all good, and not to the design. The grateful tribute to the memory of his deceased wife, Dame Martha Clayton, which occupies another part, is written in better taste and does more credit to Sir Robert's heart. In many ways I like the monument better than others of a similar type in various parts of Surrey ; part of the iron screen has disappeared.

In a codicil to his will, dated 22nd May 1707, "the hereditaments and premises in Blechingley, the reversion of which descended to him as heir-at-law to his brother, Thomas Clayton, were charged with the payment of such yearly and other sums of money as should be fit, convenient, or necessary for cleaning, repairing, or amending, as often as need should be," this monument and that of his wife ; this brother's death in the same year is recorded on a slab in the church. Apparently no claim has been made on account of these repairs since the property mentioned was purchased by Matthew Russell in 1816.

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There is an inscription to Charissima, wife of Richard Laford, daughter of John Thos. Evans, 1651, with a brass showing six sons and six daughters, and another brass showing five daughters, with the same crescent device as on the Laford tombs. The John Evans recorded here, in 1640, founded a free school for twenty boys, and endowed it with thirty-two acres of land in the parish of Nutfield, let at a rent of £20 per annum ; for the same purpose Mr. Bostock of Tandridge gave a house and garden for the master.

Other brasses are : one to a woman—no inscription ; a fine brass to a priest, with crest showing three birds (probably ravens) ; a good brass to Thomas Warde and his wife, 1541 ; and a small brass with an uncommon design of the Trinity, showing the face of the Father above, the Holy Ghost as a dove, and the Son with outstretched arms beneath ; this has been inserted in a new stone, the original slab is now in the churchyard near the south door ; perhaps the brass was removed inside for its better preservation.

The only other memorial of particular interest is the tomb of Sir Thomas Cawarden ; the canopy of this has been removed, and the top consists of six pieces of freestone ; the brass is inscribed, “ The epitaphe of S^r Thomas Cawarden, knyght, who dyed the 22nd day of August Anno Domine 1559,” and two verses of rhyme ; the first of these recites—

“ They that olde tyme preferre before our dayes,
For courage, vertue, witte, or godly zeale,
But hearing of Sir Thomas Cawardens preyse,
In serving God, his Prince, the Common weale,
Will yield to us, and saye was never none
Paste him that lyeth underneath this stone.”

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This brass has only recently been placed in position, and has a curious history, which rather tends toward proving that the inscription was prepared during the lifetime of the knight.

When Sir Thomas Cawarden died, he left his wife, Elizabeth, and William More of Losely as executors ; she died four months afterwards.

The knight had been laid to rest in an honourable and fitting manner, as shown by a detailed account of the expenses contained in the Losely manuscripts ; these amounted to £129, 11s. 9½d., including £36, 16s. 8d. for the banquet, and £6 for half a tun of wine—four hogsheads.

Many of his papers were removed to Losely, but nothing was known of this brass until 1836, when the Losely MSS., edited by Mr. Kempe, appeared ; there the statement was made of its discovery in an old chest, the full inscription was given, and the editor assumed that the plate was prepared by William More, but, for some reason unknown, was never placed on the tomb. It is even more probable that the brass was prepared at Blechingley and carried to Losely with the papers and accounts relating to the estate ; William Cawarden, the nephew and heir, disposed of all the property very soon after the death of his aunt.

Among the distinguished rectors, apart from political matters, were Thomas Herring, afterwards Bishop of Bangor, Archbishop of York in 1743, and of Canterbury in 1747 ; his successor, John Thomas, became Bishop of Rochester in 1737.

The churchwardens' accounts, beginning in 1519, have proved a mine of information with reference to the cost of labour and materials.

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On new casting a bell the bellfounder had to give surety, and a scrivener was paid fourpence for preparing the document—

"The bellfounder's horse meat, two days and a night . . .	6d.
His man, meat and drink for the same space . . .	8d.
His cost, when he took the sound of our little bell . . .	6d.
Carrying the bell to London and recarrying home . . .	6 8d.
The clockmaker of Croydon, for new trimming the clock . . .	1 2d.
Drynk when the Queen's Grace (Katherine of Arragon) came to the "Maid"	3d.
A gallon of ale for the ringers, against the King's coming to the "Maid"	2d.
Bought a pair of organs at Lingfield	£1 5
Carriage home	1 8d.
Mr. How, organ maker, for coming with his servant for mending them, five days	6 8d.
Meat and drink for him and his servant those days and for Sawder, lether, glewe, wyers and other things	4
An organ maker that came to Mr. Cawarden's to mend our organs, and stuff	1 4d.
For wasteing of torches for the buryal of my ladye's grace Prest (priest)	1
Visitation at St. Mary Overeys, for our dinner and horse meat	6d.
An hour glass for the church	7d.
1519. Wages: Carpenter and his man, each per day, 3d.; plumber, 8d.; his man, 6d.; Tyler, 6d.; his man, 5d.; two free masons, a day, each 8d.; mason's servant, a day, 7d.; nails, 3d. per hundred; a load of Horsham slate, 7/-; three days carriage of timber with two teams, £1; twenty-four quarries (small panes) of glass, 2/-; five hundred tiles, 3/-; one thousand bricks, 14/-.	
1581. A quart of wyne, 7d.; a quart of Malmsey, 10d."	

From some of these items it appears that the principal house of entertainment was the "Maid," probably an inn belonging to the church; no trace of this now exists. The only one of obvious antiquity is the "White Hart," noticed in connection with the elections of members of Parliament. Why the badge of

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Richard II. should be such a favourite sign for public-houses is a mystery.

Shenstone's couplet is inscribed on the door lintel, and parts of the house may date from the sixteenth century ; it contains a good old chimney corner ; the fire-back, decorated with fleurs-de-lis, and squares set lozenge-wise, bears the date 1613.

There was a castle at Blechingley at one time, the lines of the moats are still visible, but there was little of the buildings left in Aubrey's day, and when Mr. Bray wrote, only the foundations were visible ; its age was unknown, but, from the time of the Domesday Survey, it was held by the Clares for nine generations, and was demolished in 1263 by Prince Edward, after the battle of Lewes. It was afterwards restored, and became the property of the Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham ; at what time it finally fell to ruin is not known.

There is little more to note in Blechingley village, and a pathway through the churchyard and past the largest building in the place—the poorhouse—leads across the fields towards Pendhill Court ; from the cross-roads near Brewer Street a distant glimpse can be obtained of this charming old house ; closer inspection shows that, though many additions and alterations have been made, the house still retains many of its original features in the walls, gables, and chimney-stacks, though too much loaded with creepers. It stands in well-wooded grounds, with large walled gardens ; the water of a little brook has been formed into a stretch of ornamental water, now gay with water-lilies. Much as I would have liked to give a drawing of the place, the absence of the owner abroad made it impossible to obtain the necessary permission. Pendhill Court was built by George Holman, citizen and

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grocer of London—whose brass is in Godstone Church—a few years before his death in 1624; he was succeeded by his son Richard, who died in 1664, leaving two sons, both of whom died without issue, and the estate devolved on their sister, who had married Thomas Seyliard of Penshurst. With several deviations, members of that family remained the owners until recent years, the last of the line, though indirectly, being John Perkins, whose father had married the widow of a later Thomas Seyliard.

Mr. Perkins was the well-known London citizen who, rather in advance of his time, projected and built the cattle market at Islington, a speculation which for many years proved a disastrous failure. The house is now the property of William A. Bell, Esq., who is lord of the manor of Blechingley.

Pendhill House, a short distance to the west, was erected in 1636 by Richard Glyd, “once a wealthy treasurer of Christ’s Hospital, London,” according to the flattering inscription in Blechingley Church; his son died unmarried, and the house, with forty acres of land, was sold to Andrew Jelfe, an architect, whose family retained it until 1803; soon after that it was added to the estate of Pendhill Court.

A muddy lane leads eastward to Brewer Street, where there are two picturesque but rather ruinous cottages of early seventeenth-century date, and the fine timber-framed farmhouse which I have drawn; this is now, and has been for many years, in the occupation of the King family. The building appears to be of the fifteenth century, and is little altered in the front shown; the two side gables joined by the roof of what had been the centre hall are characteristics of its period; probably it was built as a yeoman’s farmhouse; many old manor houses



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are no larger, but this is much too small for the type of lords of the manor who have held Blechingley since the Conquest.

Perhaps owing to its name, Court Lodge, it is sometimes written of and described as the porter's lodge belonging to the vanished manor house destroyed by the Earl of Peterborough about 1677; that is quite a mistake; all that remains of that lodge will be found at Place Farm, a little distance to the north. Investigation there is calculated to make an antiquary sad; this appears to have been a big arched gateway of the type existing at St. James's Palace; the portion remaining was the entrance for pedestrians, a flat arched doorway showing at front and back; the brickwork is very fine. The interior has all been gutted out and incorporated in a featureless eighteenth-century farmhouse, the old side gate, about six feet wide, being found too large for a house door, has been bricked up in a lop-sided fashion, eighteen inches on one side and six inches on the other, the shoulder of the arch being cut away to receive the modern square door frame. The result is so appalling that one wonders how anyone can endure to live in the house and go out and in, without pulling the doorway out, and, at least, putting it near the centre; at the back of the house, and extending to the wood known as the kitchen copse, foundations are said to exist in every direction over a large area.

This manor when held by Richard de Tonbridge was over twenty miles in circuit; it descended to the Clares, Earls of Gloucester. Earl Gilbert was killed at Bannockburn, and left no issue, and the inheritance was divided among his three sisters; the youngest, Margaret, wife of Piers Gaveston, and afterwards of Hugh de Audley, received the manor of Blechingley, and held

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the lands by the old service of one barbed arrow or one half-penny. The lands of the second husband were forfeited to the Crown, but these must have been restored to Margaret de Audley, as the estate was transferred to one of the Stafford family in marriage with her only daughter. Humphrey de Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham in 1445, and killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460; his descendant, Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded for treason in 1521, the act being an alleged conspiracy against Henry VIII., who, being at that time in the middle of his quarrel with Luther, was probably in a very irritable frame of mind; the attainder was afterwards set aside, but the lands were not restored. In 1523 Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington obtained a grant of the manor, but sixteen years later he was attainted and beheaded, and the lands forfeited.

In 1541, two years later, Henry VIII. settled the manor on his late wife, Anne of Cleves, for her life, if she continued to reside in England. It does not appear that she lived much, if at all, at Blechingley, as Sir Thomas Cawarden was bailiff and collector of rents, residing in the manor house, and liking the place so well that he obtained a grant in reversion of the estate; when the ex-Queen died in 1557 Sir Thomas came into full possession; two years afterwards he died.

The story that he entertained Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn here cannot be true, as he did not enter even as bailiff until five years after her death, Anne of Cleves being the fourth matrimonial partner of the King.

Sir Thomas Cawarden came of an old Cheshire family, and was high in the favour of Henry VIII., by whom he was knighted in 1544, and received grants of land in several counties; at

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court he was one of the gentlemen of the Privy Chamber and Master of the Revels, Keeper of the Parks, Wardrobe, and Palace of Nonsuch, and Keeper of the King's tents, hales, and toyles (ropes and nets). In the time of Edward VI. he was Sheriff of Surrey, but in the next reign his luck deserted him; he was several times indicted for heresy, and also for alleged complicity in Wyatt's rebellion; but the accession of Queen Elizabeth restored him in favour, and he was one of those directed to take charge of the Tower of London, "the possession of which by the hereditary prince implies livery and seisen of the Crown." He died in the same year.

William Cawarden, a nephew, succeeded to the estates in 1560, and soon afterwards sold Blechingley to William, Lord Howard of Effingham, who died in 1574; he was succeeded by his son Charles, the second Lord Howard, who commanded the English fleet against the Armada in 1588; he gave the estate to his son William, who predeceased him, but during his brief ownership proved himself a more considerate landlord than those who came before or after him; he relieved the inhabitants of Blechingley and Horne from the service by which they were bound to furnish wood and coal (charcoal) for the King's house.

About 1615 it was sought to revive the service, but the parishioners declined, and for this they were summoned before the Board of Green Cloth in 1616, when they had to undertake the service again, but were relieved from the arrears.

After William Howard's death the Admiral settled the estate on his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, who died before her; in 1649 she settled it on

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her son Henry, the second Earl, by whom the manor was sold in 1677. John Evelyn was one of his trustees, and notes on 3rd July 1677, "I sealed the deedes of sale of the manor of Blechingley to Sir Robert Clayton for payment of Lord Peterborough's debts." The great house had been neglected, and was pulled down some time before this transaction.

The estate was sold by Sir Robert Clayton in 1788 to a relative of his mother's, John Kenrick, and remained with that family until 1816, when Matthew Russell became the purchaser from political motives; the Reform Bill largely depreciated the value of the manor, as may be judged by the prices paid. Mr. Russell paid £60,000 in 1816, Mr. John Perkins paid £540 in 1835, the latter owner was related by marriage to the Kenricks.

The road near the old manor house passes northwards near the remains of a Roman camp, across the old pilgrim road, and on to Caterham. Except the fine views of widespread landscape, there is little of interest on the way; there are many large new houses. The little old church of St. Lawrence shows some fragments of thirteenth-century work, but is not now used for public worship. In the valley below there is a new and busy little town on both sides of the main road, and, though the manors were always obscure, they appear to be now entirely broken up into small new estates and portions of ground. They were known as the first and second manors of Caterham; the first manor was held by Waltham Abbey until the Reformation, and in 1545 was granted to William Saville, by whom it was sold to Robert Hartop, a goldsmith of London, and passed to George Evelyn of Godstone in 1608, who settled a moiety on

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the vicars of Caterham ; the other portion was sold by his son, Sir John, to James Lynch, whose family retained it till 1699, when it was sold to George Roffey ; and, in 1778, the manor was sold by his descendant to Matthew Robinson ; two years afterwards it was acquired by Mr. Hewetson, whose descendants held the estate about the middle of the nineteenth century, but the manorial rights appear to have been in dispute.

The second manor is supposed to be that held by Sir John Haunsard in 1275. Richard Best was the owner in 1511 ; it was afterwards owned by Mr. Richbell, and by 1607 it had passed to the Jordans of Gatwick, and remained with them until 1703 ; after that it was purchased by Sir Isaac Shard, whose descendants sold the manor, in 1793, to Thomas Clarke, who retained possession until 1808, when it was sold to Charles Day, who afterwards purchased Caterham Court Lodge, supposed to be the manor house. After his death all the property owned by him passed into Chancery. A reputed manor of Salmons which took its name from the Saleman family at Burstow, passed to the Jordans, and the Roweds, and thence to Mr. Day.

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South from Godstone there are one or two places of considerable interest.

The mill now tenanted by Mr. Bromley Hall is valued in the Domesday Survey, as part of the manor of Chivington, at thirty-two pence ; a year or two ago the mill pond broke through the embankments, and though repairs were under consideration, the mill that had been working for more than eight centuries

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was standing idle ; in its present condition the Domesday valuation would be too high.

South from this, on the road towards East Grinstead, a milestone records on one side, twenty miles to Westminster Bridge, and on the other, twenty-one miles to the Standard in Cornhill ; these places are more than a mile apart, and the numbers must refer to different routes.

Near this is Leigh Place, a fine house with a terraced garden sloping down to a pond, but having no outward appearance of great age, except in some of the chimneys ; this was one of the first houses in the vicinity owned by the Evelyn family. There is a mill near it, and a path which reaches the open fields near a little wood-covered hill, the site of a Roman or British camp, across the fields there is no habitation until Tandridge is reached ; here there are a few cottages and several large houses in the vicinity, but the only one of any antiquity is Tandridge Hall at the south end of the village. A house of this name was included in the grant made by Henry VIII. to the child, John Rede, in place of the lands forcibly taken from him at Oatlands ; and it was part of the possessions belonging to the suppressed Priory. The period which followed was one when the high price of wool and the extension of sheep-farming caused a great deal of traffic and investment in land by the merchant class, "farming gentlemen and clerkly knights," as Latimer called them ; and this portion of the estate was sold to one of the Haward family, and remained in their hands until 1681, when it was sold to John Borrough ; after other transfers, it was acquired by the Claytons and was held by them until 1808 ; by that time the dwelling was merely a decayed farmhouse,

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which the purchaser, Joseph Wilks, had repaired and extended into a residence for himself; it has since undergone many alterations, especially during the time when it was held by John Pearson, and since then. Some of the old rooms are said to be in their original state, and in one is a carved mantelpiece dated 1598, bearing the initials of the Haward family. Brayley mentions a portion of this mantelpiece as being placed over the vestry fireplace at the church, but much has happened to that edifice since then. The house is now occupied by Mrs. Berendt.

In 1576 John Rede conveyed to Richard Bostock the site, and some of the lands of the Priory, the site of the *late* church and churchyard, with the rectory and vicarage; this either implies the existence of two churches, or that the parish church had become so ruinous as to be useless for service; the poverty of the Priory negatives the idea of two churches unless the chapel of the brotherhood was reckoned as one; in 1308 it is stated that the rents were hardly sufficient for the support of the inmates, and at the dissolution the revenues were only £78, 16s. 6³/₄d.—how careful the valuers were of the farthings. At the same time it must be remembered that the Augustinian Order was not an idle one; the brothers were compelled to work with their hands for eight hours a day, and probably much of this labour was expended on the building and repair of churches in the neighbourhood. The jolly, gross living, fat monk, of many satires in paint and print, was a good deal of a fallacy; and the men whom we may have thought of as doing no harder work than a day's fishing probably worked as hard as we do, and used their fishing-tackle to try and provide something for what would otherwise have been an empty stomach.

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Not a stone or trace of the Priory now exists ; even its site is a matter of conjecture—"near the foot of the chalk hills," many accounts say, and probably it stood about a mile north from the church, between Barrow Green and Rooks' Nest, where a house bearing the name of Priory was erected about the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In 1603 Mr. Bostock settled the rectory and vicarage on his nephew Bostock Fuller and his son Edward, directing that all the tithes, except certain parts mentioned, should be used to "maintain forever a godly learned curate or minister . . . to say Divine service, and administer the sacraments in the parish church of Tandridge, . . . and to teach the children of the inhabitants of Tandridge and Blechingley free" ; with a proviso that after Mr. Bostock's death, Bostock Fuller might revoke the uses of the deed and declare them to himself in fee. This he did, and in the eighteenth century the interest was conveyed by his descendants to the Claytons of Marden Park.

The present church has been very much restored at different times during the nineteenth century ; a south aisle was added in 1844, and a north aisle in 1874, but there are still a few traces of old work, including the timber belfry and the woodwork of the roof. There are several memorials to members of the Wyatt family, including four table tombs all together in the churchyard ; and to the Pepys family, one of whom, Sir Lucas Pepys, married the widow of George Raymond Evelyn late in the eighteenth century. William Weller Pepys of Tandridge Court, who died in 1845, was one of the Masters in Chancery, and his son Charles became first Earl of Cottenham. The family claimed descent from the father of the diarist.

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At the west end of the church a large yew tree, which Brayley describes as much decayed, must have taken a new lease of life ; it is now about twelve feet by eight feet in diameter, consisting of three main stems, and all in thriving condition.

Besides Northall, the Priory manor, there are several others in Tandridge ; at the Domesday Survey there were only two, both held from Richard de Tonbridge by the unnamed lady described as "the wife of Salie" ; a considerable population is recorded, a church, and a mill (probably that near Leigh Place). In 1315 the lands passed to the family of Warbleton by marriage ; in 1509 Sir George Putnam was lord of the manor of Tandridge Court, and his family held it until 1543, when it was sold to Thomas Bradshaw, and transferred by him to Richard Bostock, who had previously purchased the Priory manor. From the Bostock Fuller family it passed to Sir Kenrick Clayton in 1766, and was sold to Mr. Wilks in 1808. This gentleman must have been a mighty builder, as he erected a residence here also ; he subsequently disposed of the property to Sir William Weller Pepys. It is now owned by Max Michaelis, Esq.

The manor of Tillingdon was part of the lands which passed to the Warbletons, and was sold by Thomas de Warbleton to Gilbert de Clare ; it then descended by the Staffords and subsequent grantees until it was acquired by George Evelyn early in the seventeenth century, and from that family by the Claytons. The manor of Newlands belonged to the Gaynesfords and afterwards to the Thorpes.

About a mile south from Tandridge Church a by-road over the brook leads west to the main road between Wonham House (a new mansion) and Postern Gate Farm, and then through

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Lagham Wood to the railway station ; a short distance south from this is a moated place known as Lagham Park.

The moat surrounding this still exists, but the house is of doubtful age ; some portions may date from the early part of the seventeenth century, but most of it is much later than that. It is now a farmhouse.

At one time the whole manor of Wolcnestede or Godstone was held by Richard de Lucy of the king, and by him one-half, Lagham, was given as a marriage portion to his sister, who married Odo de Dammartin ; the other half, Marden, was given in a similar manner to another sister, who married Roger de St. John. At a later time the St. Johns held Lagham from the Dammartins by the service of a pair of gilt spurs, value sixpence, and this became the seat of their family, some of whom were summoned to Parliament by the title of Baron St. John de Lagham. The last of these here, Roger de St. John, died in 1353, having transferred all his rights in the manors of Lagham and Marden to Sir Nicholas de Louvaine and Margaret, his wife ; the estate descended by female heirs to the St. Clere, Gage, and Chamberlayne families, and was afterwards owned by Sir David Owen, a natural son of Owen Tudor ; in 1589 it was acquired by the Evelyns.

The district known as South Godstone consists largely of new houses, and extends from the railway almost to Blindley Heath. The most notable thing here is a mineral spring known as the Iron Pear Tree Well, which in former times had a considerable reputation.

In the days when any trickle of water having a nasty taste was believed to be good for some ailment, this spring was discovered by a man named Bonwick, a publican, who had a little

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ale-house ; he was afflicted either with gout or laziness, perhaps both, but had to brew his own beer, and to avoid the trouble of fetching water from a distance he had a well sunk near a pear tree in his own garden ; the fruit of this tree always having been so hard that no man could eat of it, hence its name. After drinking some of his first brewing he found, to his extreme surprise, that his gout had vanished ; others likewise found their afflictions depart ; but to those in good health the ale was most unpalatable ; as a beverage it was unpopular, but as a medicine it was marvellous. In effect it resembled the test much used by veterinary surgeons in recent years ; if the customer disliked the liquor, he was all right, if he liked it, he was suffering from some ailment that would be cured by its use. To modern company promoters a liquid of this description would be greater than rubies, appealing as it did to those who were sick and those who were well.

Some time afterwards a jockey named Prentice worked the well on commercial lines, sending large quantities to London, where it sold readily at sixpence a quart ; after acquiring considerable wealth by this, the fickle man ran away with it, and deserted the widow who was the owner of the well. To soothe her lacerated heart she married a plain homespun man who cared nothing for mineral water, and the source of supply fell to ruins. Years afterwards, about 1770, Mr. Troward acquired the premises and built a well house ; for a time the trade revived, but the fashion for these places was on the ebb, and presently it became ruinous, neglected, and well-nigh forgotten.

As there is neither path nor road available to the west, one must face the long climb up Tilburstow Hill, past Norbryght, one of the manors settled by Sir John Evelyn on his son in 1653.

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In 1337 this was held by John de Latimer from John de Ifield and Margery, his wife, the reversion belonging to John de St. John of Lagham ; in recent times it was the property of Mr. Snow as a farm ; the present house is occupied by Gerald M. Webb-Beresford ; there are several other new mansions on the hillside.

On the crest of the hill, Tilburstow Common extends eastward towards Leigh Place, a beautiful open space with clumps of hawthorn and gorse, wide spaces of bracken and heather, and one deep combe ; from several points there are large views extending from Tatsfield Church and the dim lands of Kent beyond, by White Hill and the Cardinal's Cap to Merstham. I give a section of this looking towards Caterham.

Westward the road follows the ridge of the hill through dense woods of larch, beech, chestnut, and fir, the ground falls sharply to the south, but the timber is too dense to allow any view over the weald below ; on the other side it is more open. Garston House is on the northern slope—a manor belonging to Tandridge Priory, and afterwards to John Rede. Bartholomew Rede sold it in 1573 to Henry Haward, one of whose descendants sold it in 1681 to John Borrough ; after passing through several hands it was purchased by Sir Joseph Jekyll, who died in 1738, leaving his wife an interest in certain stock, and his estate to twelve relations ; the validity of the will was established after long proceedings in the Court of Chancery ; the estate was sold in 1749 to the wife of Sir Kenrick Clayton, and it was subsequently held by several members of that family, and afterwards leased to Dr. Travers and to Mr. Wright. The house is now in the occupation of Stanley C. Boulter, Esq.



NUTFIELD

A farm and one or two old cottages are passed before reaching Blechingley, and from there onwards to Nutfield there is a sprinkling of modern houses all the way.

NUTFIELD

Nutfield Church occupies a retired situation a little way north from the main road ; externally it has all been restored ; but with its square tower and short spire, decayed sundial, and churchyard with many gravestones, it is a very good type of a village church. The pulpit, with carved panels of quite unusual design, is fine sixteenth-century work ; the font bears the date 1665 and the letters H. H. T. W. The screen is fairly good work, probably dating from the fifteenth century, and there are a few stalls with poppy-head ends. On the south wall of the chancel are brasses of a man and woman, with escutcheons above. The inscriptions are difficult to read, but the name Grafton is evident ; William Grafton was rector in 1460. The woman's figure with others was formerly on the floor of the chancel. A monument with the figure of a man's leg bears a curiously sculptured inscription : " Heere underfeet lyeth buried Charles Gillmyn, the sonne of Anthonye Gillmyn of Reigate, Gent, who died the 13th of April 1631," followed by one line of capital letters, which at first appear to have no meaning—

ASBYYMONVMT OFYSAIDANTHONYINREIGATEAPERS

Probably this was cut by a mason who could not read, and merely copied the letters given to him one by one ; it translates into—" As by ye monum't of ye said Anthony in Reigate ap(p)ears."

NUTFIELD

There are two arched niches with altar tombs of ancient date ; one of these is the tomb of Sir Thomas de Roldham ; the other has not, I think, been identified ; above these is an old brass with a Latin inscription to Edmund Molyneux, a modern tablet in memory of Arthur James Stark, only son of James Stark of Norwich (the painter), "who for fifteen years worshipped God in this place."

"I strove with none, for none was worth my strife ;
Nature I loved and next to Nature, Art,
I warmed both hands before the fire of life,
It sinks and I am ready to depart.
OCTOBER 28, 1902."

A tablet to John Peter Elige, "surgeon in the army . . . in two German wars and in the American War.—William Philip, son of the above.—John Peter Elige, Captain in the Royal Artillery, who was killed at the commencement of the storming of Salamanca, 1812, and Mary, his mother, who died in 1826." This family owned part of the manor of Nutfield in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

There are many modern memorials — one to Ellen, Viscountess Canterbury, and another to various members of the Budgen family, one of whom, Thomas, served at Waterloo. In the north wall are two lancet windows ; one of these has been altered and the other built up.

Close to the church on the north is the manor house, Nutfield Court, formerly the residence of that branch of the Evelyn family who settled here ; it is a pleasant house, but any outward trace of antiquity has departed. It is now the residence of Jesse T. Charlesworth.

NUTFIELD

All three manors in the parish appear at one time to have been held by yeomen. Their early history is a record of church land held by alien priories, and seized by Richard I., then a succession of noble owners—Anesty, Valence, Cobham, Carew, and others; probably none of these ever lived in the parish, and only a few of them may have seen their property. After the reign of Elizabeth the manors were divided into portions, and the succession became so complicated that it is not worth while to trace the ramifications; the Evelyn tenure has been noticed in connection with Godstone.

In the early part of the seventeenth century two names stand out. About 1615 Richard Jewell married one of the coheiresses named Bassano, and purchased the shares of the others; the property by descent and marriage remained with his descendants until the nineteenth century, though the last bearing the name of Jewell died in 1760. Richard Jewell was a shrewd, far-seeing man, who looked after his own and his neighbours' rights so well in troublous times that he gained the title of "King" Jewell, and was still living in the manor house at the time of the Commonwealth. It must have been his son, bearing the same name, who, when the Land tax was introduced in 1692, ostensibly as a temporary measure, advised his neighbours to undervalue their land, and in 1710 stood as a candidate for the representation of Blechingley against George Evelyn and Thomas Onslow.

The manor of Wolborough is now a farm situated near the southern extremity of the parish, and is interesting from its connection with the Shelleys. In the fourteenth century this belonged to Thomas de Wolbergh; it was held by William Sidney of Stoke

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D'Abernon in 1478 ; and in the latter part of the sixteenth century it was owned by George Evelyn, who gave Wolborough and Daysies Farm to his daughter on her marriage with Thomas Stoughton. In 1624 it was sold to John Turner of Blechingley, and by his descendant, Thomas Turner, it was conveyed in 1685 to William Barnes ; from the Barnes family it was transferred in 1722 to William Lukyn, whose sons in 1740 conveyed it to Helen Shelley ; from her it descended to Bysshe Shelley of Castle Goring, Sussex, who was made a baronet in 1806 ; dying in 1815, he was succeeded by his son, Sir Timothy, the father of Percy Bysshe Shelley, the poet, whose only son by Mary Goodwin succeeded to the title and estates in 1844.

Hathersham manor adjoins Wolborough on the south, and is now a farm ; in 1616 this manor became the property of a yeoman named Henry Shove ; it was only 180 acres in extent, but he was a man of sufficient substance to have the honour of knighthood thrust at him in 1631 ; this he eluded by failing to appear, an offence for which he was fined £11. In the same year he obtained a licence from the Surrogate to enable him and his family to attend the church at Horley. This licence is a curious document, but its long-winded precision helps to make us understand some of the reasons for the Puritan emigration to New England at that period. After the opening flourishes, it proceeds—

“ Whereas it hath been alleged before the venerable William Merricke, doctor of laws, our Surrogate, on the part of Henry Shove, a discreet man of Nutfield . . . yeoman, that the house in which he usually resides is not only three miles distant from

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the church at Nutfield aforesaid, but also that the interjacent road,—particularly in the winter season,—is so bad and impassable that it is not possible for him and his family to attend morning prayers at the said church, return from thence, and again be present at the evening service in the said church as by law required,—and whereas it hath been further alleged on his part, that the roads lying between his said house and the church of Horley . . . are not only much better and greatly shorter. Know therefore that we, the said Judge, being moved thereto in this spiritual matter, by the above mentioned and other causes, have granted and permitted . . . the aforesaid Henry Shove and his family, for the present, this Faculty and licence freely to go to the church at Horley, and there to hear divine prayers and sermons, and there from time to time to perform all other Divine offices, so long as he shall reside in the said house. But, notwithstanding, upon this law and condition, That the said Henry Shove and *all* his family shall four times in every year, be present at our church at Nutfield aforesaid, and there at the times appointed by law, receive the sacred Eucharist, from the Rector or Curate of the same church, as by law obliged ; and shall readily bear the burthens of the said church, so that no prejudice may arise to the said church or to the Rector or Curate thereof for the time being. It shall nevertheless be lawful for the Curate officiating for the time being at the church at Horley . . . (under the same restrictions) to bury the dead, and baptise the infants of the said family as often as there shall be occasion, reserving always, as by law, to the church at Nutfield. . . . We ordain also that this licence shall remain in force for twelve years . . . and no longer. In witness whereof, we put our seal used in similar cases,

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to these presents, this twenty-eighth day of June in the year of our Lord 1631. (Signed) NICHOLAS SHEPPARD."

The church of Horley is about two miles by path and road from Hathersham on level ground ; Nutfield Church is four miles over weald roads, with a steep climb of four hundred feet, and half as much down the other side. If the law was as strictly administered throughout England, it is a wonder that the whole population did not become pilgrims to the new land. Maybe reports from over sea, describing a community ruled by quite as stern a theocracy, made them content to endure their troubles at home.

Two notable residences in Blechingley parish, but really in the Nutfield district, may be mentioned, though no longer existing in their ancient state. Ham was described by Mr. Manning as a large old house with an entrance gateway, the upper part of which had been used as a chapel, and bore the date 1611. This had been the home of the Turner family as early as the middle of the fourteenth century, and remained in their hands until the death of John Turner, the last male heir, in 1713. It was bought by Thomas Budgen, and held by that family until about 1843, when it was bought by Mr. King, who pulled down the gateway and most, if not all, the ancient work ; it is now a farmhouse.

Kentwaynes was formerly a residence of the Cholmeleys, from whom it passed to the Gaynesfords, and from them to the Drakes, one of whose descendants, James Drake Brockman, sold it to John Kenrick ; it was long held by that family, and is now occupied by Henry Cecil Pelly, Esq.

Nutfield is a pleasant roadside village of cottages and large houses ; most of these are of modern date. One old inn is timber

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framed, and may date from the sixteenth century, but a new front obscures all the old work, which only shows in portions of the interior.

The principal industry is the digging of fuller's-earth ; the pits are strictly closed to the public, but one of them can be seen from the churchyard. The upper layers of russet-coloured sand and stone appear to be about twelve feet deep ; this is entirely removed on to the exhausted portion of the workings, leaving the earth exposed. The slate-coloured stuff is used by manufacturers of fine woollen cloth, the yellow for coarser fabrics ; there is little use for it in the county now, but wherever woollen cloth is made this earth is essential, as providing the cheapest and least objectionable method for removing the oil used in preparing the yarn. The names, fuller and fulling-mill, are probably derived from foul—a mill used to remove the foulness from the cloth. West from Nutfield the road rises a little and then slopes rapidly down Redstone Hill to the busy modern town which has grown around the railway stations.

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Even in its earliest days, the inhabitants were too busy to use the entire name, and abbreviated it into Redhill. Beginning as a suburb of Reigate, the position is now practically reversed, and would be so entirely but for the dignity of age, which makes the older town metaphorically draw its skirts closer, while it maintains a certain aloofness towards this growth of the nineteenth century. The two towns are completely joined, and only to those concerned are the boundaries of any consequence.

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To the wayfarer the change from new to old begins at the Quakers' meeting-house ; there is more new than old in Reigate, but here and there are houses dating from about 1700, and a screen of cropped lime trees takes one back to the Dutch fashions of William of Orange.

The market-place has an old-fashioned air in spite of many new shops and houses ; the market-house still remains, and two good inns—the “Swan” and another of the many “White Harts”—both now bearing the modern title of hotel. They were well-known houses in the coaching days, and their names appear on the old time bills. The “White Hart” has fine old gardens, but has been entirely rebuilt ; the “Swan” retains more of the characteristics of these houses as enlarged and altered about the end of the seventeenth century. I have given a view of the back of this house ; though plastered over and the timbering hidden, it shows the arrangement of these country inns about as well as any remaining in Surrey.

Records show that a house was in existence here under the same name in 1452 ; the sign itself points to a much earlier date than that.

Reigate was one of the principal stopping-places on the old pilgrim road, and many things here lead to the surmise that the road was used not only by pilgrims to the shrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury, but also by pilgrims to the Holy Land. The priory was dedicated to the Virgin and the Holy Cross ; there was a chapel at the west end of the town dedicated to St. Thomas, and an inn for the accommodation of pilgrims, on the site where now stands the Red Cross Inn, the badge of the Knights of St. John ; at the other end of the street, the “White



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Hart" is the badge of Richard II. There were three emblems in the parade of chivalry, one of which every knight had to choose—the peacock, the pheasant, and the swan—as associated in his oath with God, the Virgin, and his lady love, so that the sign of the swan really takes us back to the Crusades.

The stream of pilgrims lasted until the dissolution of the monasteries ; after that the many labourers employed by religious houses were no longer required ; the monks had to wander abroad and beg for alms even as their servants had ; inns and hostelries were deserted.

Local trade developed and increased after a time, and Reigate became a busy little market town ; in 1750 there were about twenty mills employed in grinding oatmeal—not an article of food associated with southern England—and there was a considerable trade in sand, which was largely used in the manufacture of glass ; but these industries died away ; when the coaching trade was killed by the introduction of railways, and a rival town sprang into being at Redhill, the old town went to sleep ; but the advent of a railway of their own brought them once more into the world, and the beauty of the surrounding country caused many people to make their homes there ; at the present day Reigate appears to be as prosperous, and certainly is more pleasant than its newer neighbour.

Originally known as Chercefelle, the earliest use of the present name was in 1279 ; the origin of both names has been the subject of much learned inquiry without much result ; yet the word fell—a hillside—describes the ground on which the town is built ; while the old roads passing through are quite as lucidly pictured in Wrygate—a crooked road—the letter W was

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not added to our alphabet in the thirteenth century, and people had to spell with what they had.

Earl Hamelin, who lived during the last half of the twelfth century, is the first owner about whom there is positive evidence. In 1199 he granted the advowsons of Cherchfelle, Betchworth, and Leigh to the Priory of St. Mary Overey in Southwark. The manor descended to his son, Earl William, and from him to John, Earl of Warren and Surrey, who died in 1347, leaving no issue; the manor passed to his nephew, Edmund Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel; and his descendant, Thomas, died in 1415, childless; the estates were divided among his sisters. The eldest, Elizabeth, was the wife of Thomas Mowbray, and received the manor of Reigate; she left no male heirs, and the estates were divided among her four daughters; Margaret married Sir Robert Howard; Isabel married James, Lord Berkely, whose son transferred his share to his cousin, Thomas, Earl of Surrey, whose son and heir, Thomas, was created Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal; he died in 1524 "grown old in the service of his prince, and full of the honours he had merited." His eldest son Thomas had been created Earl of Surrey for his services at Flodden in 1513, and became Duke of Norfolk at the death of his father. He served Henry VIII. by land and sea, and in many capacities; but he grew too great, and on the 12th December 1546 was arrested on a charge of "acting treasonably in respect of bearing the royal arms of England on his escutcheon, and for concealing the treason of his son in assuming the arms of Edward the Confessor"; he was committed to the Tower.

On the 13th January his son received a formal trial at the Guildhall, and a few days afterwards was beheaded on Tower

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Hill. On 27th January a warrant was sent to the Lieutenant of the Tower ordering the execution of the Duke at an early hour on the following morning ; but before the sun rose Henry VIII. was dead, and it was not deemed advisable to begin a new reign with such an odious execution, though the old man was kept in prison until the public entry of Queen Mary into London, when he was released and his honours and estates restored ; he died in 1554, having lived in the reigns of eight English sovereigns. The executed son was the poet Earl, and his son followed his father to the block in 1571.

A portion of the manors of Reigate and Howleigh (now corrupted into Hooley) was granted by Edward VI. in 1551 to William, Lord Howard of Effingham, whose son Charles left the Priory estate to a granddaughter ; the manorial estate he settled on his second wife, who subsequently married William Monson, afterwards created Lord Monson and Viscount Castlemaine ; he, in 1626, purchased the other part of the estate from the Earl of Dorset, whose father had bought it from the daughters of the Earl of Derby. Lord Monson was one of the judges at the trial of Charles I., and at the Restoration he was condemned to perpetual imprisonment and his estates forfeited. Soon afterwards the estates were granted to James, Duke of York, who in 1672 took as a partner John Goodwin ; but after he ascended the throne he bought Goodwin's share and became sole owner. After his flight William of Orange became the owner, and he in 1697 granted the manors of Reigate and Howleigh to Joseph Jekyll and his heirs, in free and common socage at a yearly rent of 6s. 8d., as trustee for his brother-in-law, John, Lord Somers ; after the death of Jekyll the manors were held by the two sisters

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of Lord Somers and their husbands ; and when Lady Jekyll died in 1745 the estates descended to her nephew, James Cocks, created Baron Somers of Evesham ; his son, who succeeded in 1806, was created Viscount Eastnor and Earl Somers in 1821 ; his descendants are still lords of the manor.

The castle grounds are just behind the houses on the north side of the High Street, and are now laid out as a garden and recreation ground, where a band plays occasionally on summer evenings and the townsfolk assemble to talk, flirt, and listen to the music. If they think of its history at all, it is that version of it provided by Martin Tupper's novel, which has established itself here as firmly as at the Silent Pool. To many of them, the gateway erected by Mr. Barnes in 1787 out of fragments of the walls is a venerable piece of antiquity, and indeed, except some stones in the walls of cottage gardens and fragments in the underground stairway, this is the only visible evidence that a building once existed here. The mound on which the keep stood and the dry ditch are laid out with turf and flower-beds, and there are fine old trees on three sides, but the entire space is only a fragment of the seventeen acres noted in the survey of 1624.

The entrance to the caves was formerly from the top of the mound, but this is not used now, a doorway having been constructed at the bottom of the ditch. This series of caves had already received their various names, the dungeon, the Barons' Cave, etc., when Gough wrote about the close of the eighteenth century ; the largest is about 150 feet long, with a vaulted roof and a semicircular end with a seat or ledge round it ; this in popular imagination is where the Barons met previous to the

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signing of Magna Charta ; from another a long inclined plane leads to a stairway of mason-work which extends to the top of the mound. There are many bas-relief sculptures, Roman soldiers' heads, grotesque masks of monks, horses' heads, and other subjects which can only be guessed at, the oldest date 16—. The material out of which the caves are cut is a fine silvery white sand, firmly packed, but very easily cut, and probably they are coeval with the castle, which is said to have been built by William, Earl of Warrene in Normandy, who accompanied the Conqueror to England and died in 1088. About the sculptures I am doubtful ; some of them may be old—no one can tell—but Mr. Thorne, writing about forty years ago, states his belief that they were carved or recarved by a local artist then living.

As a castle it never saw much fighting ; it was seized by Lewis of France during the troubles with King John, but this is all its connection with Magna Charta ; probably it was neglected and fell to ruin during the many changes of lordship in the fourteenth and succeeding centuries ; by the time of James I. a survey reported that “ Sir Roger James holdeth from year to year at the will of the Lords, the site of the Castle of Reygate, with the warren and lodge there . . . containing seventeen acres, sixteen perches ; worth together with the profit of the coney's there, £10, for which he payeth £8 ” ; and further, “ that the lords of this house have a decayed castle with a very small house and a coney warren.” When Camden prepared his *Britannia*, the first English translation of which appeared in 1610, the castle is described as “ forlorn and for age ready to fall.”

During the Civil War the castle was the scene of some military operations. After the presentation of the “ Surrey

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petition" (in 1648) in favour of the restoration of the king, a return to known laws, and demanding ordinances against the insupportable burden of free quarter for soldiers, tumults arose, and the town and castle were garrisoned by six hundred Royalist horsemen, who were attacked by the parliamentary soldiers occupying Redhill; the Royalists withdrew to Dorking, but returned next morning and again occupied the town; discovering that their opponents had been reinforced, they marched off towards Kingston, the Roundheads following, but leaving a small garrison in the castle.

The turbulence of the Surrey men who had forced themselves into the sacrosanct precincts of the House of Commons, assaulting and insulting the soldiers on guard, and demanding their rights, got on the nerves of Parliament, and they took severe measures with the insurgents, their estates were sequestered, and out of the proceeds a troop of horse and a company of foot soldiers were raised and maintained, and their castles were ordered to be destroyed; but some portions of the walls and flanking towers remained until the close of the eighteenth century; after that, the ruins became a quarry for the townspeople and vanished entirely. Sixty years ago a moat is described as existing at some distance north from the dry ditch, but that, like the rabbit warren of the seventeenth century, has been obliterated by villas and gardens.

Besides the series of caves under the castle there are many others of much greater dimensions on the east, west, and south sides; one under the Constitutional Club is used as a rifle range, and on either side of the tunnel road there are a great many, used for the storage of malt liquor, and as vaults by a wine and

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spirit merchant ; almost every house on the north side of the main street has a cave or caves of its own, and the largest series of all is to be found west from the castle, at what was once a public-house bearing the sign of "The Bats and Balls," where there is also a deep subterranean well, which may at one time have supplied the castle garrison. Here many of the side tunnels are sealed up ; one of these is said to go to Reigate Priory—which is possible—but another, which is reputed to go to Hastings, impels one to draw the line somewhere ; this I would do at the Priory and the castle.

Connection with the latter is quite probable, as at one part the roots of a tree standing in the castle grounds have found their way through a fault in the strata into the cave about eighty feet below. In one of the caves here there was a large pool of clear water ; the owner was a newcomer and had never seen it before that summer, but explained that old residents told him it came once in seven years and was known as the "Bourne water." Our only light was a candle, and as the margin formed a quicksand there was no means of testing the depth, but it is evidently a flow towards the south similar to the well-known Croydon "Woe water" ; the well previously mentioned with all its depth below the level of this pool appeared to be quite dry. No doubt many of these caves were formed as cellars ; the ease with which they could be dug, and the profit obtainable from the sand, gave every encouragement for each man to have his own ; many instances occurred where the greed of inconsiderate neighbours caused a collapse of the roof, an accident for which there was no remedy.

Tales of smuggling are associated with these as with every

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cave in England ; the air in them is cool and sweet, without a trace of musty odour, and there is little or no trace of damp. After hours of exploration in them one begins to feel like a troglodyte, and sunshine makes one blink like an owl.

Near the last series of caves, the Red Cross Inn marks the vicinity where stood the Chapel of the Holy Cross, belonging to the Priory, and the pilgrim lodgings attached thereto ; all trace of these have vanished. The wide part of the street was formerly the market-place ; the crypt of the market-house, ribbed with fire stone, described by Brayley, may still exist ; but the market was removed to the east end of the High Street before the middle of the sixteenth century, when a pilgrim chapel, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, which stood near the top of Bell Street, was adapted for use as a market-house, a court-house, and a prison ; at some later time a small prison or cage was added to the chapel. When the present building was erected in 1708, it also served as a town hall ; and at that time the old prison, with the remains of the Chapel of St. Thomas, was entirely removed ; the prison was re-erected in Mint Yard or Cage Yard, as it is sometimes called, and still stands there, though now used as a shed or store. The turret clock, which was a feature of the old building, was placed on the new one.

In 1861 a new public hall was erected to provide more ample space for the deliberations of the burgh assembly ; and the upper part of the market-house became a place for lectures and other improving ceremonials for a time ; it is now the headquarters of the Liberal Club.

The market for corn and provisions was granted by a charter of Edward II. in 1313 at the request of John, Earl of Warren, to



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be held weekly on Tuesday ; a second market for cattle was granted by Charles II. in 1673, when his brother, the Duke of York, was lord of the manor ; this was held on the first Wednesday of every month, but has long been discontinued.

The original market still brings a few farmers into the town, who may or may not have samples of corn concealed about their persons, while they have lunch and do a little shopping.

Perhaps it is a proper arrangement that the party enamoured of free trade should spend their leisure moments above a corn market in the last stages of decay.

Another chapel stood south from the "White Hart" and existed as a dwelling-house at the beginning of the nineteenth century ; this was dedicated to St. Lawrence, and its existence here shows that a considerable trade in hides and leather must have been carried on at the weekly market in early days, that saint being the patron of curriers and leather workers.

The tunnel road is a characteristic feature of the town, and the view through this towards the north is really very pretty ; the road darkened by the trees overhanging the cutting is flecked with quivering spots of light and shade, which grow fainter as they vanish into the grey-green distance. Some of the inhabitants, ignoring the obvious nineteenth-century construction and the date it bears, link it with the name of Charles I. Cobbet passed here in 1823 while it was being constructed, and wrote of the work as a wasteful throwing away of the country's money.

The tunnel was made to straighten the approach from Reigate Hill, both the old roads being very crooked and dangerous after wheeled traffic began to increase.

The parish church stands at some distance east from the

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older part of the town, and is reached by Church Lane or a cross-road between the two main routes to Redhill ; it was no doubt familiar enough at one time to a man who has had a certain immortality conferred on him for his evil deeds, by Tom Hood and by Lord Lytton. Eugene Aram served for a year as usher in the Grammar School in Church Street, lodging in a cottage bearing the name of Upper Repentance ; he was reputed to be a “ gay ” man, who wore a gold-laced hat and ruffles, a costume hardly agreeing with an usher’s wages or the period in which he lived.

The church is large and handsome, with a square embattled tower, having a turret and a flagstaff ; as one climbs the steps into the churchyard it becomes evident that the restorer has been at work. The building suffered restoration in 1845, in 1858, and in 1874 the hand of Sir Gilbert Scott fell heavy on it—so heavy that it is difficult to trace more than a superficial resemblance between this and the church illustrated in old histories of Surrey.

Some of the tombs and inscriptions have disappeared, and others have been moved to different positions, in what seems an utterly senseless fashion.

At present there may be noted, on the south wall, three helmets, and a kneeling female figure without inscription, but probably that of Katherine Elyot, 1623, formerly in the chancel ; against the east wall, three tombs with recumbent figures in marble—one, a bearded man in plate armour ; another, a man with ruff, trunk hose, and armour ; and the third, with the figures of a man and woman, both wearing ruffs—the man with trunk hose and armour ; the last of these represent Thomas Bludder of Flanchford and Maria, his wife ; the other two appear to be those

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shown in Allom's drawing on the north side of the chancel, and said by Brayley to be monuments of the Thurlow family. There is also the recumbent figure of a child, probably that formerly on the Bludder tomb. A grave slab with a brass to Elizabeth Hildyard, and another to Henry Drake of Frenches, 1609. A tablet on the north wall to Lord William Howard, first Baron of Effingham, and "those of his immediate descent."

Charles, second Lord Howard of Effingham, died at Haling House, Croydon, in 1624, and was buried in a vault on the south side of the chancel; it is curious that a man of his eminence should have had no inscription to his memory until 1888, when a brass was placed in the chancel giving a copy of the inscription on his coffin; this states that he was "Lord High Admyrall of Englande, General of Queen Elizabeth's Navy Royall at sea agaynst the Spanyards invinsible Navy, the yeare of our Lord 1588."

We may turn our eyes from this humble brass plate to the monument of Richard Ladbroke of Frenches, 1730, and some of his kin, probably all worthy folk, but somewhat overwhelmed by this erection, which may be guessed as twenty-five feet high and fourteen feet wide, said to have cost £1500 at that time; the Clayton tomb at Blechingley is modest in comparison. A brass plate near the Howard memorial records certain gifts by John Skyenner; the curious Latin inscription with its many abbreviations is translated by Brayley as follows:—

"Be it remembered, that in the year of our Lord 1513, John Skyenner, Gent., as well with £10 for the soul of Richard Knyght, and with forty shillings for the soul of William Laker, and with eighteen shillings and sixpence for the soul of Alicie

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Holmeden, and also thirteen shillings and fourpence for the soul of George Longvile, to be disposed of by the said John Skynner, as with one hundred and three shillings and fourpence of his own proper money, for the souls of his parents, caused this vestibule to be built in honour of Almighty God—on all whose souls God have mercy.”

The building mentioned is that at the north-east end of the church, used as a vestry ; in the room overhead was housed the parish library founded in 1700 by Henry Cranston, the vicar. Brayley remarks that a few years earlier than this inscription the money would have been expended in masses for the good of the departed souls.

A much discussed monument to Edward Bird was, presumably, regarded as hardly respectable enough for the company in the church, and has been removed, but is, I think, still in the town. This showed a half-length figure in armour, with a full wig, a truncheon in his hand, and various warlike implements in the background. The gentleman was a lieutenant in a regiment of horse ; and in September 1718 “he had the misfortune to kill a waiter in a bagnio in Golden Square,” for which he was tried, convicted, and hanged in February ; his body was brought here and buried, and an elaborate monument erected to his memory, with an inscription containing a censure on the judge and jury. The patron of the living at that time was Haestricks James, father-in-law of Bird, and he no doubt was responsible for the monument and inscription. After a time the censure was obliterated, but the monument remained unquestioned until a more fastidious age. The remains of many persons who were beheaded found honoured sanctuary in churches, but, so far as I

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know, this was the only instance of one who had suffered the vulgar penalty of hanging being admitted.

Part of the screen is old work, probably of the fifteenth century, and the font, with grotesque heads on the rim, is ancient.

There is a large churchyard, greatly added to in recent times; in the north-east corner a gateway has been built of fragments removed from the church, and near it the large tomb of Francis Maseres, Cursitor-Baron of the Exchequer, and a benefactor to the endowments of the church, including a bread dole on Christmas Day. The cast-iron screen of this is decaying very rapidly.

Part of the land between the church and Bell Street, known as Friday's Mead, was formerly the scene of a curious rental; the manor of East Betchworth was held from Reigate by the service of its tenants, who had to mow this meadow every year.

There are a few old buildings in Bell Street and one good early eighteenth-century doorway, and the boundary wall of the Priory extends all along the southern side of the town to Nutley Lane; near this are the old houses which I have drawn; they are the only characteristic group left of the ancient town; the cottages with projecting upper stories probably date from the fifteenth century; the name Slipshoe Street seems beyond explanation. Westward to Reigate Heath there are a few old houses and some large modern ones, but nothing of general interest.

The Priory was founded before 1240 by William, son of Earl Hamelin, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Cross, and endowed for the support of a prior and canons of the Order of St. Augustine. It was never wealthy, but, its members being a working order, it probably had considerable local influence.

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At the dissolution its gross income was a little over £77, and the prior received a pension of only £10. The ownership of the property since that time has been fully traced in the history of the manor.

Apparently the Priory buildings were used by the later owners as a dwelling-house ; John Evelyn visited there in 1665, and describes Lady Peterborough's house as an ancient monastery, well in repair, but the park much defaced. He also mentions the chimney-piece in the great chamber, carved in wood, as of the time of Henry VIII., and taken from a house of that King's at Blechingley ; the chimney-piece would then be newly installed here, as it was about that time the other house was pulled down ; it is now about the only piece of antiquity remaining at Reigate Priory. In 1680 the estate was sold to Sir John Parsons, a wealthy citizen, who made many alterations and converted the great chamber into an entrance hall, employing Verrio to decorate the principal apartments ; the next owner, Mr. Ireland, pulled down a portion of the house and altered what was left. Early in the nineteenth century the estate was purchased by Earl Somers, who again remodelled the building and formed a choice collection of books and pictures. The house has some associations with John Foxe, the writer of the *Book of Martyrs* ; he had been tutor to the Lucys of Charlcote, and was engaged by the Duchess of Richmond to act in the same capacity to the children of her brother, the poet Earl of Surrey, some years after that nobleman was beheaded ; his wife had married again, and the children were placed in charge of the Duchess, who received a grant of £100 per annum for their maintenance. There were two sons and three daughters, and probably it was the boys who

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were placed at the Priory in charge of John Foxe, who about the same time (1550) was ordained deacon by Bishop Ridley. He preached the doctrines of the Reformation at Reigate during the reign of Edward VI., but when Mary ascended the throne in 1553 he retired to the Continent, and does not appear to have been at Reigate afterwards.

Local tradition says that Archbishop Usher died at the Priory, but that is doubtful, as Evelyn writes of going to visit the Archbishop at Ryegate, while on a visit to this house. Grote, the historian, lived here for some time before he went to Barrow Green. The house is now in the possession of Lady Henry Somerset.

South of the Priory grounds is Reigate Park, to which the public have admission on sufferance and until further notice, the boards proclaiming that trespassers will be prosecuted, and that dogs must be led. This, with some of the surrounding land, was formerly a deer park, but was thrown open and the trees cut down by Lord Monson in 1635. About 1800 the summit of the hill and much of the southern side was converted into arable land; subsequently the turf was relaid on the summit and the south side planted with furze as a cover for game; in 1844 much of the furze was removed and grass laid down again.

The principal part now is the open grassy ridge, bordered with bracken and thick-set underwood; a few trees at the eastern and western ends. The Priory grounds are entirely screened by thick wood, otherwise the view is open in every direction, always fine and sometimes beautiful, the low evening sun glorifying even the prosaic roofs and steeples of Redhill. From the low ground at the western end a devious path across the fields leads to

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Reigate Heath ; myriads of poppies cast a scarlet glow over the green corn, and occasionally this changes to delicate tints of pink and crimson, caused, I find, by Shirley poppies, the seeds of these having been carried by birds from the gardens around, and appear likely to spread in their new surroundings ; but their delicate colour does not tell so well among the corn as the old scarlet poppy. In these fields, and all the others traversed this summer, I have missed the corn-flower, the corn-cockle, and the field-marigold ; these appear to be almost eradicated.

Reigate Heath is a large open stretch of ground with much gorse and bracken, clumps of fir trees, and two old windmills ; nearest the town is a level space of greensward, on which at one time there was a race-course ; it is now devoted to cricket, a noisier and more communal game than that played by the earnest devotees who drive the elusive golf-ball from green to green over a large part of the heath. On quiet evenings at this season, among these groups of fir trees and bracken one may hear the strangest bird-note of England—the long-drawn trill of the night-jar, resembling nothing so much as the sound made by the relay of an electric battery, but not so musical as that ; there is only one variation in the note, otherwise it never seems to change ; the first period lasts for about fifteen seconds, succeeded by a softer note for about the same time, a short pause, and then the same sounds over and over again, until they become rather irritating.

Passing the windmill, an old lane leads downwards between hedges to Wonham Mill ; this has been rebuilt and is busily at work.

In the little brook in olden days there was a great stone,

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stained red by the blood of the victims of a water kelpie who had his lair beneath. The monster was exorcised by a vicar of Buckland, who, with bell, book, and candle, compelled him to move his quarters to the Red Sea—a journey of unnecessary length for the poor beast. The tradition was not so easily disposed of, and the stone remained an object of awe to the people ; this was regarded as a vile superstition by a later vicar, who had the stone removed to demonstrate to his parishioners that there was nothing under it ; but some of the old folks remember the story yet. The belief in water monsters was quite common in the northern parts of Britain, but it is unusual to find it in the south.

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Buckland is about a mile across the fields—a small village with a green, a pond, a big barn, and a few houses mostly of modern date, with one exception—the post office, which is of brick and timber, probably dating from late in the seventeenth century ; its position near the church makes it likely that at one time it was the village inn.

The church is small, with a low spire, and, excepting the belfry, was entirely rebuilt in 1860. It is said to be rich in stained glass, some of it old, but I was unable to obtain the key.

There are fine trees all about, and just outside the churchyard wall is the manor house, Buckland Court. This, I understand, is a modern house, though some of the buildings appear to be the baronial style of the late eighteenth century. It is the residence of F. H. Beaumont, Esq., who is lord of the manor. The name of the manor is interesting as an illustration of one

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method of land tenure in Saxon times. Folkland was communal land held by payment of a rent in labour or in kind. Buckland, or Bockland (Bookland), was free and personal, held by a deed or book, with Livery and Seisin. It was exchanged by taking a turf from the land and delivering it with the deed to the purchaser, who seized or took hold of the deed and turf, as representing the whole estate. The manor was held in 1279 by John de Walton, and before the middle of the fourteenth century had passed to the Earls of Arundel; they and their descendants owned it until 1567, when it was sold to Roger Dallender; in 1651 it was sold by his grandson Ralph to Gamaliel Catelyn; three years later his heir conveyed it to George Brown, through whose descendants, male and female, it came to the Beaumonts early in the nineteenth century.

The other manor is at some distance south-east; Hartswood was granted by John de Walton to Robert de Herteswode; it afterwards came into the hands of the Cobhams, and was conveyed by Anne, widow of Sir Reginald Cobham, to Thomas Saunders of Charlwood in 1539; it was afterwards purchased by John, Lord Lumley, and was sold by him to one of the Dallender family, who transferred it to John Skinner, who died in 1584. Thomas Moore held the manor in 1676, and by his descendants it was sold in 1718 to Sir William Scawen; from his family it passed in 1781 to Sir Merrik Burrell, and from his heir it was purchased in 1790 by Mr. William Clutton, whose descendant, Ralph W. Clutton, is still the owner, residing at Kinnersley Manor, near Sidlow Bridge.

A little way west from Buckland a road turns southward over the ridge towards Moor Place, generally described as the



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oldest mansion in the district and dating from about the middle of the fifteenth century. The demesne is part of what was known as Agland Moor, hence its name.

The house had fallen into decay, when, about 1820, it was taken and restored by Colonel Stables, a soldier, who was wounded and lost two brothers at Waterloo. He was succeeded in the tenancy by Mr. Freshfield, who continued the restoration ; their combined efforts have removed most of the ancient features, though there is still some close timber-work visible at the western end, and two stacks of Tudor chimneys.

The estate had been in the possession of the Woodman family—yeomen probably—for a long period before it was sold to the lord of the manor of East Betchworth in 1739. Brayley describes the house as containing much fine old furniture, and a carved bedstead, supposed to have been used by Cardinal Wolsey at Esher, on which was the cheerful motto, “Remember the end” ; but, if we accept Stow’s narrative, the bedstead could hardly have been used by the Cardinal at that place ; he states that when Wolsey took up his brief residence at Esher “there was neither bed, sheets, tablecloths, or dishes to eat their meat in” ; and the circumstances were not likely to favour the acquisition of elaborate furniture. The house is now in the possession of James R. Corbett, Esq.

The village of Betchworth is pretty, and its beauty is enhanced by the presence and sounds of running water, though the raised wooden footpaths at the south end show that sometimes the quiet stream breaks bounds and takes possession of the roadway. The river is held back by weirs to form ornamental water in the grounds of Betchworth House.

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The manor was held by the Earls of Warren and Surrey, the last of whom, John, left no issue when he died in 1347, and was succeeded in his titles and estates by his nephew, Richard Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, whose son and heir was beheaded for treason about the end of the fourteenth century ; most of his estates were bestowed on Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk ; but he died in exile in 1413, and the estates were restored to Thomas Fitzalan, who held them for a short time before his death in 1416. Leaving no children, his sisters became coheirs, and East Betchworth was assigned to Joan, who married William Beauchamp, Lord Abergavenny ; from their family the estate passed by marriage to the Nevills, one of whom sold the manor in 1623 to Sir Ralph Freeman, Master of the Mint, who built Betchworth House. The estate descended from him by marriage to the Bouveries, and by one of their descendants, Charles H. Bouverie, it was sold in 1817 to the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn ; it is now the residence of Major Henry Goulburn, the lord of the manor.

The house can be well seen from the path across the fields on the south side of the river ; it is now a plain two-storey building with yellow walls and a projecting blue-slatted roof ; probably it was partially rebuilt when first acquired by the Goulburn family, as there is a detached portion nearer the village of a much earlier date.

The church stands back from the main village street—a picturesque little building with a square centre tower showing traces of Norman work. It formerly belonged to the Priory of St. Mary Overey in Southwark, and after the dissolution was granted by Henry VIII. to three different persons, the grants being revoked each time. Finally it was given by Edward VI.

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in 1547 to the dean and canons of Windsor; many quarrels ensued afterwards between them and the vicars as to their shares of the tithes, but these are of little interest now.

Several of the monuments mentioned in the middle of the nineteenth century are no longer visible. The fine brass to William Wardysworth, vicar in 1534, is now fixed on the paneling north of the chancel; on the south wall there is a brass to Bridgett Brown, 1627, and a tablet to Stephen Harvey and his wife, Dorothea, 1688, 1694; she was a daughter of William Conyers of Walthamstow, a family long settled there, one of them, Sir Gerard, being Lord Mayor in 1737; the Harveys succeeded Sir Ralph Freeman at Betchworth House. On the north wall there is a memorial to several members of the Bouverie family, and others to the Goulburn family. Among the many modern memorials there is one to Sir Benjamin Brodie, Bart., surgeon-general to the Queen, 1861; and another to George Gordon Moir, "who gave his life for his country at Bloemfontein," 1900.

The font and the pulpit of marble and mosaic are both new.

One may wonder how long it took an early Briton to make the huge chest out of a solid oak log, with sides four inches and ends ten inches thick, bound with seven great hoops of iron; this may be Norman work, but is possibly much older than that.

A number of bequests to buy bread and clothing for the poor show considerable poverty here in the eighteenth century. One may be quoted for its good sense and its quaint phraseology—

"Mrs. Margaret Fenwick, late of Betchworth Place, left £200 to purchase freehold estate, the rents to be applied—

"1st. In binding out poor children of this parish to some

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mannuall trade, and towards setting them up in their respective trades.

“ 2nd. In preferring in marriage such maidservants born in this parish, who shall respectfully live seven years in any one service, and whose friends are not able to do it.

“ 3rd. For such poor of this parish as shall not be under the common relief thereof, who by sickness, accident, age, or a numerous family of children or otherwise, shall, without such relief, be likely to come under the alms of this parish. And an estate in Leatherhead in this county having been accordingly purchased to perpetuate the said charity, and to the intent that the same may never be perverted or smothered, this stone was erected Anno Dom 1737.”

This shrewd lady evidently understood the causes of poverty, and also how often charitable funds were “ smothered.”

Near the east end in the churchyard is the grave of Charles Morris, a song writer and poet, who was exceedingly popular in London about the beginning of the nineteenth century ; he had lived in summer, at Brockham Lodge, for many years, and died there in 1838. His lyrics were such as we could imagine “ Dick Swiveller ” singing with intense emotion.

The manor of Wonham, east from the village, was formerly held by a family named de Wonham, and passed to Andrew Cade, an alderman of London, in 1648 ; his name appears in the list of charitable donations in the church. The manor passed through several hands until 1787, when it was purchased by the Earl of Romney, who rebuilt the house ; he sold it in 1793 to John Stables, and by his son it was sold in 1804 to Viscount Templeton ; it is now a new house.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL

At the north end of the village is Broome Park ; in the romantic era it rejoiced in the name of Tranquil Dale ; the house was occupied for many years by Sir Benjamin Brodie, and is now the residence of Lady Louisa Fielding.

There is nothing of much interest at Brockham Green ; the church was erected in 1847, and the village is built round a large green from which there is a fine view of Box Hill ; there are many pretty paths and lanes in the immediate neighbourhood.

The manor of Brockham was owned by the Earls of Warren. In 1254 it was granted to John Fitz-Adrian—a brass to one of the members of this family was found in Betchworth churchyard some years ago, and is now in the British Museum ; it certainly ought to have been placed in the church—from the Fitz-Adrians it passed, about the middle of the fourteenth century, to the Frowicks ; the last of these, Thomas Frowick, died in 1522, and was succeeded by his sister, wife of John Coningsby. Sir Philip Coningsby in 1605 conveyed the manor to Thomas Wight, and it was held by his descendants until 1793, when it was bequeathed to John Wight of Brabeauf, who was not personally known to the donor, or of any kin to him, though he bore the same name ; it was afterwards added to the Deepdene property.

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Near Betchworth Station the enormous chalk-pit proves that by constant digging men can move mountains, for it has now reached the crest of the hill ; the road leads northwards to Walton-on-the-Hill—a most exasperating road, starting fair

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL

uphill as if it meant to reach the top, and then descending again ; this process is repeated several times, and the combined ascents ought to have carried the pedestrian over the hill, before he finds himself scanning the yew trees of the pilgrim road at the base of Pebble Combe and beginning it all over again.

A day of moist heat, like a vapour bath, the road thickly shadowed with trees, midges in clouds, and thunder muttering in the distance ; a tired retriever, whose owner has vanished in front, walks slowly up with me, to be greeted at the top with a rattling peal of thunder and heavy rain ; but there is no shelter for the traveller and no village nearer than Walton, two miles away ; so we jog on between the fields, and then on to the ever-widening heath to the cross-roads by Holmfield House. On the rising ground beyond is the steeple of Tadworth Church and the scattered houses of Walton-on-the-Hill. Tadworth has little to interest, and Walton not much more, unless to golfers ; the open land stretches all around, and there are many new houses.

The church is near the centre of the village ; it was entirely rebuilt in 1820, and the tower again in 1895. The tomb of the founder, John de Walton, 1268, is in the exterior wall of the chancel ; but otherwise the church is modern. There are three hatchments and some mural tablets, but the only objects of note are the highly ornamented lead font, showing nine seated figures—supposed to be Norman work—and a reading-desk of good design, partly old, with a chained Bible.

The manor house, Walton Place, is near the church ; the names of three queens are associated with the manor ; Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward iv., had it settled on her, and exercised the right of patronage in 1477 and 1483 ; two years later she

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was deprived of her estates and confined in Bermondsey Abbey by Henry VII. The manor was given by Henry VIII. to Katherine of Arragon; after her divorce he resumed possession, and in 1533 gave this, with other estates, to Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington; six years afterwards he was beheaded and his estates forfeited. Anne of Cleves is said to have resided at Walton Place, but the estate returned to the Crown and was restored by Queen Mary to Sir Francis Carew, and descended with the Beddington property. The house is now the residence of William R. Malcolm, Esq. In 1844 Brayley describes Walton Place as a farmhouse, but retaining much of its ancient character, though a chapel with a stone pulpit had been removed from it in 1785. Thirty years later it is described as having a moat, thick walls, and buttresses, but converted into a gentleman's residence. There is no trace of a moat now, and the exterior of the house has been modernised; the oldest fragment is a coat of arms inserted in the wall; this bears the date 1626.

There have been several discoveries of Roman antiquities in the district; in 1772 a brass figure of Æsculapius was found, and in 1808 a fort, with fragments of pottery and Merstham stone. At the present day the principal industry is golf.

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A little motor omnibus runs through Redhill to Merstham, along the same road where Cobbett jogged with his pony one May morning nearly a hundred years ago, looking up at Gatton, "which is a very rascally spot of earth," and grumbling at the many new houses that he had seen all along the road from

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London ; but not forgetting to notice and commend a fine field of cabbages belonging to Colonel Joliffe. Many houses have been added to the number since that day, but there are few left on which Cobbett's eyes could have rested.

From where the road forks a long and pretty footpath leads across the fields to Gatton, but meanwhile our way lies towards the Downs.

Merstham Church is near the road, about half a mile from the village, situated on a wooded knoll from the foot of which a spring rises and flows southward ; sometimes this is added to by a considerable flow of " Bourne water " ; the lych gate has mill-stones for pavement and the iron axle of a mill-wheel for a centre post ; these were brought from a derelict mill in the village, and it may have been sardonic humour which prompted the use of these essential portions of the machinery of a dying trade as a gateway to the churchyard. The church was restored in 1861 externally, and in 1875 the plaster ceilings were stripped from the timbering of the roof, and some other alterations made.

There is a good deal of ancient work ; much of this dates from the middle of the fifteenth century ; there are portions of earlier dates—fourteenth and twelfth centuries—and a fragment of a piscina, which is ascribed to Saxon times.

In the north chancel is the altar tomb of Sir John Elmebrygge, with two shields of arms, and brasses to his two wives and seven daughters ; the brass of the knight has gone, but the indent in the stone shows the contour of it ; the date of this is 1474. There are brasses to John Ballard and his wife, 1463, to Thomas Elmebrugge—said to be a son of the other—1507 ; a brass to John Newdigate, 1497, and a brass to a lady—no date

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or inscription. A large and much mutilated statue of a man was discovered under the pavement of the south chancel while a vault was being made about a century ago ; some of the fragments of the original tomb have been used to support the figure, and other portions have been built into the wall of the chapel ; the sculpture is good rough work. This is supposed to be the effigy either of Nicholas Jamys, a mercer and one of the members of Parliament for London in 1415 father-in-law of Sir John Elmebrygge, or of Sir John Danett, his son-in-law. The mosaic floor of the chapel is remarkable as being the work of Constance Kent while in prison for the murder of her step-brother ; it was placed here by Baron Hylton. There are several memorials to members of the Joliffe family, one of these being Lieutenant George Joliffe, "who met a glorious death on board His Majesty's ship, the *Bellerophon*, in the ever-memorable battle of the Nile." There is also a brass to Peter Best and Richard Best, "sonnes of Nicholas Best and Elizabeth, his wife, of Alderstead . . . in the county of Sirrey" ; restored by Edwin Freshfield, who also replaced the brass of one figure which had been stolen.

There are two piscinas, one double, with finely carved foliage ; and various fragments of stone from outside sources have been placed in the walls ; some of these are from Albury manor house, South Merstham, and bear the Southcote arms, with a curious coronet having six upstanding feathers ; in the west wall is a carved key-stone from old London Bridge, placed there by Sir E. Banks, the builder of the new bridge. The font is of Sussex marble, a large bowl on a centre pillar with four corner shafts. The chancel arch, with sculptured acanthus leaves, is

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probably one of the oldest parts of the church. Some traces of mural painting show the same marone colour in the background as at Chaldon, but all are very faint ; the supposed figure of a bishop on one of the west pillars is hardly traceable. The windows contain much good modern painted glass and a few fragments of old.

The square tower with a shingled spire is largely of thirteenth-century date, and the ironwork of the hinges and keyhole shield of the west door is old and good in design ; the doorway with round columns and dog-tooth moulding is partly old, but the curious arabesque impost is certainly modern. It is pleasing to find a church in good repair and comfortable for those attending it, from which all the ancient features have not been improved away. A spring west from the church is still known as the Pilgrims' Well, and may have been used by them as it is near the old road.

The manor of Merstham was given by Athelstan, a son of King Ethelred, to the Priory of Christchurch, Canterbury, in 1018, for the clothing of the monks, and it was held by them until the dissolution of the monasteries. In 1540 it was granted by Henry VIII. to Robert Southwell in exchange for the churches of Warnham and East Peckham ; this gentleman became Master of the Rolls, and was knighted in 1541. His family retained the manor until 1569, when it was conveyed in reversion to Thomas Copley, who died in 1584 ; it was sold by his son to Nicholas Jordan and John Middleton in 1603, and again in 1607 to John Hedge and William Gregorie. It became the property of the Hedges and remained with them until about 1685, when a portion was sold to Sir John Southcote ; there were various

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divisions and arrangements, but the manor came back into the hands of John Southcote, whose estates were sold in 1727 to Paul Docminique, and remained in the possession of various relatives of his until 1788, when Merstham and Chipstead were sold to William Joliffe, and still remain the property of his descendant, Lord Hylton, who is lord of the manor. Merstham House is now occupied by Andrew Walker, Esq.

The manors of Alderstead and Albury belonged in the fourteenth century to the Passele family ; Sir Edmund Passele in 1327 gave Alderstead to his son Robert and Albury to his son John ; about forty years later some part passed to Sir Nicholas de Louvaine, and at a later date the manors became involved with that of Gatton. About the middle of the fifteenth century Albury and Gatton were held by John Tymperley, and were alienated by him to John Elmebrygge, who died in 1473. His grandson, of the same name, left an only daughter, Ann, who became the ward of John Danett and afterwards his wife. The property was sold by his descendant, Leonard Danett, about 1578 to John Southcote, a justice of the Queen's Bench, who died in 1585. The estates remained with the Southcotes until 1727, when they were sold to Paul Docminique, and from him they passed to Mr. Joliffe and were united to Merstham.

Albury Place stood by the side of the brook about half a mile south from Merstham railway station ; it was pulled down in 1750, and, though part of the moat remained long afterwards, I think that has now entirely vanished. There are many streets of new houses in the vicinity, and the making of railways had previously changed the appearance of the district.

Alderstead survives as a farm on the top of the hill ; this

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manor was owned before 1487 by William Best, and it was held by his descendants until 1678, when the estate was sold to Joseph Reeve, and was held by various members of his family until 1749, when it was sold to Samuel Nicholson, and by him to Sir James Colebrook in 1758 ; it was afterwards owned by Lord Newhaven, John Lefevre, and Charles Shaw, who assumed the name of Lefevre.

The manor of Chilverton in 1423 belonged to Sir John Leigh, and was afterwards held by the Drakes, Frankes, and Bowmans, passing ultimately to the Joliffe family. The manor of Netherne survives as a farm on the opposite side of the valley from Chipstead Church ; this was held in 1287 by Robert de la Neddre, and afterwards by the Gawtons, Bests, and Tatnalls ; the last of these families held it from 1616 to the early part of the nineteenth century.

The road northwards from Merstham Church was made in 1807, one of the new turnpikes which moved the spleen of Cobbett, who was conservative in many things to the marrow of his bones ; turning from this across the railway lines, where they dive into the hillside, a long and fairly steep incline reaches the top near Alderstead Farm ; from this a path is marked, but as it passes through the farm buildings it is difficult to find ; the road continues to Alderstead heath, an open tract of gorse-covered land ; passing over this, the missing path is found at a field gate near the corner of a wood ; from this point it is a clear journey across the wheat-fields until near Chaldon Church ; near this the way becomes obscure again ; this often happens where a field-path approaches a farm steading, for it is no use pretending that these short-cuts are popular with many farmers.

The church was locked, and at the farmhouse I learned that

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the keys were kept at the Rectory, a little distance down the lane. Having procured these, I entered the little church, which, remote as it is, has become famous during the last thirty years owing to the discovery of a wall-painting which had been hidden under many coatings of whitewash since the Reformation. After seeing fragments and shadows of this class of work in so many churches, it is a pleasure to find one entire and so little damaged that the picture can be studied and read, as it was meant to be.

Supposed to date from the early part of the thirteenth century, it covers the entire west wall, and measures some seventeen feet in breadth by eleven in height, divided into four portions by a transverse band of vase-like decoration and a ladder ascending from the infernal regions below to the nebulous cloud above, where is the figure of Christ, with the sun on His right and the moon on His left—hence the title bestowed on the picture, “The Ladder of Salvation.” The figures are white or tinged with yellow on a marone background, coarsely drawn, but entirely worthy of the men who conceived and wrought the grotesque sculptures of those early ages. Demons and angels are represented five to six feet high; the largest of the human kind less than half that size. It is impossible to give any description in words so that the picture could be visualised by those who have not seen it. One division shows the tree of knowledge, with the torments allotted to those who seek the evil; over this Christ, and the devil as a hound, with an angel assisting souls to climb the ladder; the next division shows an angel with scales, weighing souls in judgment, while a devil tries to drag down the balance; below this is a fire and cauldron, into which souls are being forked

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by two large devils, while another picks some of those ascending off the ladder. There are many symbolic figures, one of these being that of a woman whose arm is being gnawed by a dog, interpreted as a warning to those who give to their dogs food that ought to be given to the poor.

The picture is fully described in vol. v. of the Surrey Archæological Collections, and the Rector has written a thoughtful pamphlet on the subject for the use of visitors ; it is a pity that he has not extended his work to include some of the monuments and the pulpit. The most remarkable monument is on the north wall of the chancel ; it is of sandstone and bears the date 1562, fine in execution and most unusual in design ; a tablet with a finely worked border between pilasters and surmounted by a pediment on which is sculptured a sun face and the letters R. I. E. The lettering of the inscription is not divided into words, but runs on to the end of each line in a similar way to that noticed at Nutfield—but this is seventy years earlier ; two different spellings of the word “grant” will be noted—

“Good redar warne all
Men and women whil they
be here to be ever good to
the poore and nedy. The
poore ever in thys
worlde shall ye have. God
grante us sumwat in
stoore for to save. The cry
of the poore is extreme and
very sore. God graunte us
to be good ever more. In this
worlde we rune our rase
God graunte us to be with
Christ in tyme and space.”

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All trace of the ownership of this tomb was lost for many years, and the burial-place appropriated to the Tomlins family. The rector informed me that recently it has been thought to be a memorial of a family named Robinson, presumably this ascription turns upon the letter R ; if so, it may refer to John or Thomas Roche, who owned Tolsworth in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The Roffey family owned Stansted *alias* Fryerne about the end of the seventeenth century, perhaps earlier, and from them the Robinson family bought the estate in 1770, but at what time the latter came into the district I do not know. Taking the final letter as a possible trace, it may refer to the Elmebrygges ; though most of these were buried at Merstham, they were also lords of this manor.

The three shields in stone panels, with Gothic tracery, without any inscription, are probably portions of the tomb of Baldwin Covert, a member of a family who owned Chaldon, possibly from the Conquest, and certainly from the latter part of the twelfth century until 1476, when the lands were bought by the Elmebrygges. Isobel Covert, in her will dated 1440, ordered her body "to be buried in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Chalvedon, next the tomb of her husband."

The pulpit is good oak work and bears the inscription, "Patience Lambert, 1657" ; the framing is carved with a guilloche and a key pattern on alternate sides ; some of the mouldings and panels have been restored. The inscription is explained by a brass plate on the east wall, "To the memory of William Lambert, Gent, sometime lord of the manor of Tollesworth in this parish, who died in 1656, also of Patience, his wife, the donor of the pulpit" ; a further inscription records his descent from the ancient family of Lambert of Banstead.

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There is also a monument of white and coloured marble in memory of John Home and his wife, Christian, 1770, 1752 ; he appears to have been a planter or merchant in Jamaica.

The only other object of note is the bell, now ceased from its labours and hung inside the church ; this is said to be the oldest church bell in Surrey, dating from about 1250 ; it bears the inscription—Cāpana ; Beati ; Pavli.

The church had formerly neither tower nor spire ; these were added on an old base in 1843 ; there had been a restoration in 1807, and there was another in 1870, but traces of Norman and thirteenth-century work are still to be seen.

The parish is still much as it was described in the early part of the nineteenth century ; it has neither public-house, shop, nor village, and consists of four or five farms, though the ground is no longer devoted to sheep raising, and is now mostly under tillage. At that time the road by Alderstead was the only means of access for wheeled traffic ; now it can be reached from several directions.

At the Domesday Survey the arable land is given as two carucates (about two hundred acres), and valued at £4 ; no woodland is mentioned. It was held by Ralph de Felgeres from the Bishop of Bayeux ; in the twelfth century it was owned by Sir Richard Covert, held of the king in socage, and not by knights' service ; it remained with his descendants until 1476, when William Covert of Slaugham released it to the trustees for the widow of John Elmebrygge. Afterwards it passed with the Merstham lands through various hands to Paul Docminique ; from his descendants to the Tattersalls, and to William Joliffe,

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whose descendant, Lord Hylton, is still lord of the manor. The only land held by the church here was the manor of Tollesworth, which belonged to the priory of Merton and was granted by Queen Elizabeth to John and Thomas Roche ; in 1724 this was bought by Paul Docminique.

The manor of Stansted was held by a family of that name at an early date. In 1708 it was owned by George Roffey ; in 1770 sold to Matthew Robinson, and by him in 1781 to Richard Hewetson.

The manor of Willey was held in 1333 by John de Warblington, and by his descendants until 1485 ; in 1552 it was conveyed to Sir Thomas Cawarden and left by him to John Brown and Alice, his wife ; it was afterwards owned by the Betensons, and in 1734 was sold to Sir William Clayton.

From Chaldon there is a pleasant two-mile walk by foot-path and road to Coulsdon Common and church, on the east side of Farthing or Fairdene down ; but rebuilding and restorations during the nineteenth century have left little of interest in the church. Various barrows on this down have been opened since 1770 and some relics of Saxon and Roman work discovered.

Much of the land in this parish was held by Chertsey Abbey, the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon in London, and by Waltham Abbey ; after the dissolution it came into the hands of the Carews of Beddington and remained in the possession of different members of that family until about 1670, after which it was held by the Bouveries, and by them sold to the Byrons in 1782. Edmund Byron, Esq., of Coulsdon Court, is the lord of the manor.

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Many curious entries from the Court Roll of this manor are quoted by Manning and Bray ; some of these illustrate the conditions under which the bondmen or slaves existed about the middle of the fifteenth century.

Wishing to see something of the earliest railroad in the south of England, I returned by Alderstead Farm, finding the path easy to trace from the other end ; from the crest of the road south from this there is a wonderfully fine view over Merstham, Redhill, and Reigate, bounded by the Sussex downs, Leith Hill visible through a gap above Gatton, all the ridge by Nutfield, Blechingley, Tilburstow Hill, and the wide country beyond.

Since leaving Chaldon all the wild roses in the hedgerows have been of the creamy white variety ; but lower down these get fewer, and near the old yews of the pilgrim track the white and blush-pink varieties assume the sway, still accompanied by much honeysuckle, which does not appear to vary in tint. The same thing can be seen in other parts of Surrey, but not in this pronounced fashion.

The formation of a road, two tunnels for main lines of railway, and excavations for the manufacture of lime have obscured the contours of the land at this spot so much that it is impossible to understand its previous appearance, though, indeed, one would have to go a long way back to reach original conditions.

At the Domesday Survey two stone pits or quarries are mentioned belonging to the Convent of Christchurch, Canterbury ; other quarries were always retained by the Crown. In 1350 Edward III. authorised John and Thomas Prophete to dig stone



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here for the erection of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, ordering the sheriff and others to assist them, and should any men refuse to work, they were to be sent prisoners to Windsor ; it is not recorded that any of the local men made that journey to interview the stern-faced king, or his clerk of works, William of Wykeham.

When Henry VII. began, in 1507, to build the chapel which bears his name at Westminster only this stone was used. In later days it was much in request for the building of furnaces, hence its name of firestone ; nowadays it is little used as building stone, but extensively in the manufacture of greystone lime.

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Turning towards the north, the road winds slowly up past some cottages and an old farm ; on the other side of the little valley the ventilators of the Merstham tunnels smoke like small volcanoes among the wheatfields rippling gently in the summer wind ; and one wonders how many of the thousands who are daily whirled through the noise and darkness below have ever given a thought to, or have seen, the fair sunlit fields above them.

After passing a coppice, the new road swings back nearer the centre of the valley, and at several places the bed of this old tram-road is visible. It was a double track, laid down in 1801-5 to provide a direct route for the carriage of stone and lime to London, passing down Smitham Bottom, along the lower side of Haling Park (where some traces of it remain), to Croydon, and thence to Wandsworth. Worked entirely by horses, the road was of great benefit to the community, the waggons on the return journey being loaded with coal and town manure ; but it

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did not pay, and was finally bought and torn up by the Brighton Railway Company ; it seems curious that they did not lay their line in the old track and so avoid the work of making a tunnel.

Nearly opposite the northern end of these tunnels a narrow lane turns westward uphill, leaving the modern cottages which huddle by the roadside nearly all the way to Croydon ; at the top of the hill there is a little open space and Chipstead Church ; there is no village.

The restorer has been at work on several occasions during the nineteenth century, and the building has lost much of its picturesque appearance, but internally there is a good deal of interest.

The chancel has five narrow lancet windows on the north and four on the south side, where one space is occupied by a priests' door. There is a helmet and banner of disputed ownership ; old history and modern tradition says these belonged to a member of the Stephens family of Epsom ; I cannot trace any such family of knightly distinction, though there are grave slabs recording some persons of that name.

A brass of a woman wearing a ruff and peaked headdress is inscribed—

“Here lyeth ye body of Lucie Roper, ye daughter of Lactansius Huntley, citizen and iremonger of London. . . . Anno 1614, being about the age of twenty-four years.”

Inside the altar rails is the grave slab of Alice Hooker, 1649 ; this was the eldest daughter of the learned Richard Hooker, and probably the babe whose cradle he was commanded by his shrewish wife to rock, instead of talking with Cranmer and Sandys, who had come to visit him.

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Among the monuments is one to the Rev. James Tattersall, the last of his family who owned the Chaldon estates, and another with a bust to Sir Edward Banks, the great contractor of his time, showing the characteristic features of a captain of industry, with a long inscription relative to his character, life, and work, which included the building of Waterloo, Southwark, London, and Staines Bridges.

There is a fifteenth-century chancel screen and a Jacobean pulpit and reading-desk ; the font probably dates from the fourteenth century. The tower is vaulted over the transept ; the west doorway is entirely new, but on the north side of the church, shadowed by a great yew, there is a fine little Norman doorway, no longer used.

In the churchyard there are many tombs ; one of these records the first and last of the Docminiques, who owned much land near here before the Tattersalls, whose family tomb is also near by, and a large structure of Portland stone, which is the last resting-place of Sir Edward Banks ; not many yards away the sexton showed me the humble stone marking the grave of the man who was his mate when he worked as a navvy on the Merstham tram-road ; then they had only three shirts between them, but one was always clean and reserved for wear when interviewing their employer. Both men were strenuous workers for whom the public-house, poaching, or loafing had no attractions ; Banks was soon noticed and promoted to be ganger, and then foreman of the works ; his adaptability enabled him to acquire education, become a contractor, and finally marry the daughter of his former employer William Joliffe, who had bought the Merstham and other estates from the Tattersalls and

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become a great landowner ; the chum remained a navvy to the end, and yet, with the exception of William Joliffe, they are all gathered here in one country churchyard.

The manor descended from Richard de Tonbridge to the Staffords, and remained with them until the execution of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in 1523. Henry VIII. granted the estate to Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners, for his life, and when he died ten years afterwards it reverted to the Crown. The next owners were John Ledes and his wife, Anne, and about 1544 they sold the property to Thomas Matson, who three years afterwards conveyed the manor, with the advowsons of Chipstead, Coulsdon, and Walton, to Thomas Copley for two chains of angel gold (gold of the quality of that coin) weighing thirty-eight ounces, these being security for part of the purchase money unpaid. Continually changing hands, it came to the Sackvilles, and by the poet Earl of Dorset, the reversion was sold in 1571 to John Skynner, whose name has been noticed in Reigate Church ; he, in 1584, in consideration of a ring of gold, conveyed the estate to William Poyntz and George Holmeden, who were related to him by marriage ; after many other changes it became the property of the Docminiques.

Another estate in the parish had nearly as many owners, one of whom may have been an ancestor of "Tess." Beauchamps estate was held by Lord Beauchamp of Hacche and his descendants in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries ; the last of these, Cecelia, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, died in 1364, and the estate was divided between her daughters, Eleanor and Cecelia ; the latter married, first, Sir Roger Seymour, and, second, Richard Tuberville, but survived both husbands, and in 1382 conveyed

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the lands to Hugo Quetche ; three generations afterwards the family was represented by two daughters, one of whom had been disinherited by her father for marrying a bondman ; the other was the wife of John Skynner of Reigate, and received all the estates. Mr. Manning supposes that these must have been either the farm of Court Lodge, or Noke, which in the seventeenth century was the property of John Short, one of the same family whose name survives at Woodmansterne ; in 1692 it was purchased by Sir John Thompson, and from his descendants it passed, in 1786, to John Fanshawe.

Close to this is a place now called Purbright, held in the thirteenth century from the Abbot of Chertsey by a family named Perifrith. In 1292 it was held by Hamo de Gatton. At the dissolution of the monasteries it vested in the Crown, and afterwards had many owners, including the Bests, the Owfields, Sir John Thompson ; and in 1704 the property was purchased by Mr. Docminique.

Shabden Park was the seat of John Fanshawe in 1808 ; eight years afterwards it was sold to Archibald Little. It is now the residence of Sir Horace B. Marshall.

The road by Chipstead Church appears to have been the old main road ; about a mile to the south it forks, one branch going to Reigate Hill, the other towards Gatton Park.

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A pretty road through much woodland, beech, larch, and fir ; one cottage by the wayside has so many picturesque features added on that one can hardly believe it to be a real human

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dwelling ; passing a schoolhouse, the road dips down and rises again before the steep descent into the sheltered valley on the north side of Gatton Park, great fields of wheat, oats, and barley, and at one place many old yews ; these are too far north for the easterly pilgrim road, and must be part of that running towards the Thames, traces of which remain on Riddlesdown, and near Sanderstead.

At the boundary of the park the road stops, though a foot-path continues to the carriage drive north-west from the lake ; this drive then follows the course of the old road to Merstham, near Battle Bridge Farm ; but to reach the house it is necessary to turn up the valley about a quarter of a mile, and then follow a lane south to the lodge gates.

The house, church, and town hall are close together ; the great mansion, of classic design and huge proportions, was erected by Lord Monson after 1830 ; at certain times members of the public who have applied for permission are admitted to view the Marble Hall, the floor of which cost £10,000, and the other parts, sums in proportion ; having no great desire to gaze on its magnificence, I confined my attention to the task of finding the verger somewhere in the servants' quarter of the house ; ultimately this was accomplished, and admission obtained to the church. The north doorway of this seems to be ancient, but all the rest, including the insignificant little tower, appears to be work done in the restoration of 1834. The interior is beyond description ; every part, taken by itself, is good ; the pulpit, fine in design and workmanship, is ascribed to Albert Dürer, and probably this is correct ; this, with the communion table, came from Nuremberg ; the panelling of the nave, with its canopy,

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came from the cathedral of Aürshot in Louvain ; the panelling of the chancel from a church in Burgundy ; the communion rail from Tongres in Flanders ; the richly carved miserere stalls from a Benedictine monastery in Ghent ; the carved doors from Rouen ; the screen from a church in Somerset ; some of the old glass from Louvain ; but I think the window with the jumbled arms of Henry VII. is modern. In the middle of the nineteenth century the church was described as “an eminent example of the correct taste and liberality of the late Lord Monson.” Well ! let it go at that ; the twentieth century is not blameless in these matters. The town hall stands near the west front of the house in a grove of old chestnut and lime trees ; it is merely a summer-house of classic design, a roof supported by six columns without any walls, at one end a huge urn, on a pedestal which has inscriptions on each side ; one of these is Comitum, Gattonense, MDCCLXV. The whole erection could shelter about thirty people from the rain ; whether it superseded an earlier town hall does not appear to be known.

Gatton and Old Sarum were the two most flagrant examples of the pocket burgh system on which their fame depends, and this may as well be noticed in the history of the manor.

Many traces of Roman occupation have been found in the neighbourhood, and Battle Bridge is said to receive its name from a slaughter there of the Danes who escaped from the battle at Ockley ; Gatton is noticed in Saxon times, and at the Domesday Survey, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, was the owner ; he forfeited his estates in consequence of having assisted Robert of Normandy in his attempt to dethrone his brother, William Rufus.

Herfrid was the next owner, and his son, Hamo de Gatton,

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held it of the king by the service of one knight's fee, the payment of the castle guard at Dover, and other services in money and arms. In 1301 the estate was heired by his sister, Elizabeth, who married Thomas de Northwood, and it remained with their descendants, male and female, for several generations, coming to the Leghs, and to the Westons of Albury and West Clandon, who owned the manor in 1393.

About fifty years afterwards it was granted by Henry VI. to John Tymperley "for his good and faithful services, in consideration of forty shillings, with licence to impark his manor of Gatton with 360 acres of land, 80 acres of wood, 20 of marsh, 80 of pasture, 40 of meadow, and 250 acres in Merstham, with pales and ditches ; with free warren, exemption for life from serving on assises or juries, or being compelled to appear before the king's justices, treasurers, or Barons of the Exchequer," so that he had a fairly free hand to do as he liked. In 1451 he was further authorised to return two members to the House of Commons.

What Tymperley's services to the king were, does not appear, but he lived in troubled times, and in less than a century the manor was again in the hands of the Crown, and was among the estates granted by Henry VIII. to his divorced wife, Anne of Cleves, in 1540 ; that lady did not keep it long ; in a few months the manor appears in the possession of Sir Roger Copley, "who, being burgess and only inhabitant of the borough and town of Gatton, elected two honourable members of Parliament." The Copley family, like so many more, tapered out into daughters only, and one of these, Mary, carried the estate to John Weston of Sutton by marriage, about the middle of the seventeenth

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century. It was sold by them soon afterwards to Thomas Turgis, and his son and successor was one of the representatives of the borough in nearly all the Parliaments of Charles II. and William III. ; he died in 1704, and bequeathed the property to a kinsman named Newland, son of a scrivener in Smithfield ; after that it became merely an appanage to the selling of seats in Parliament, with the prices always rising. In 1751 James Colebrook, a banker, paid £23,000 ; in 1830 Lord Monson paid £100,000 ; two years later the Reform Act put an end to the traffic. The proprietors were not always the only voters, but these were never numerous, and on rare occasions they rose to twenty, all persons who could be trusted to vote as they were directed ; none of them appear to have made any attempt to kick over the traces here, though ludicrous instances are recorded in nearly all the other pocket boroughs. Gatton House commands fine views and is itself visible from a long distance on the eastern side ; the estate was acquired from Viscount Oxenbridge in 1888 by Sir Jeremiah Colman, who is lord of the manor.

Upper Gatton at the beginning of the seventeenth century belonged to Samuel Owfield, one of the Gatton M.P.'s, and passed to Sir John Thompson, another of these, and was sold by him in 1704 to Paul Docminique ; it was afterwards owned by the Tattersalls, Lord Newhaven, William Currie, Colonel Mark Wood, and is now the property of Sir Jeremiah Colman, and the residence of Alfred Benson, Esq.

Leaving Gatton Park on the western side, a portion of the pilgrim road is followed to Reigate Hill ; the crown of this, known as Margery or Colley Hill, has recently been acquired as an open space, and none too soon, for modern houses begin to

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approach it from every side. Originally this was part of the manor of Reigate, but was detached in 1347, and, excepting the time when it was held by Lord Lumley in the sixteenth century, its ownership was similar to Gatton, remaining, however, in the hands of the Weston family until 1842.

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The district south from Reigate known as Woodhatch has very little of antiquity except its name, a gate to the Earl of Warren's wood, now Earlswood. Woodhatch Place was owned by the Poyntz family, and in 1617 was conveyed to John Oade, from whom it passed to the Cudsdén family ; in 1714 it was the property of Sir Richard Oldner, and was afterwards held by the Scawens ; from them it passed to William Bryant, who in 1786 pulled down the old house and built a smaller one near the site, which by later proprietors has been altered and enlarged. One of the earliest references to hedges as boundary fences appears in a deed quoted by Mr. Manning and judged by him to be of thirteenth-century date. In this Adam de Waldhache de Reygate grants to Alice, daughter of William le Tanner of Reygate, "one croft and one lane adjoining, with the hedges and all appurtenances in the parish of Reygate."

More than a mile south-west of Woodhatch is Flanchford Place, anciently held by Hugh de Flenesford from the Earls of Warren ; afterwards it was owned by Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who died in 1415 ; this portion of his estates was heired by his sister, Elizabeth Fitzalan, and from her it descended to her grandson, John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who in 1446 granted it

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to John Tymperley, the owner of Gatton. During the sixteenth century the estate was transferred several times. In 1539 Ann, widow of Reginald Cobham of Blechingley, conveyed it to Thomas Sanders of Charlwood, whose family sold it to the Freemans, and they conveyed it to Thomas Bludder; his son and heir, Sir Thomas, who died in 1656, had mortgaged his patrimony, and the estate was sold to Sir Thomas Hook, who, in 1666, conveyed it to Sir Cyril Wyche, a clerk in Chancery, by whom it was sold to Lord Windsor, and by his heirs to Sir Merrik Burrell, whose descendant, Lord Gwydyr, sold it in 1790 to William Browne, a yeoman of Reigate.

It is now a farm tenanted by Mr. Whittington, who showed me the house, but no part of this is older than late in the seventeenth century; the site of the old Place is supposed to be the flat piece of ground between the present building and the road; probably during the many changes of proprietors it fell to decay, but I have been unable to trace the time of its demolition. The river Mole runs near by, and there is a large pond with a fairly picturesque old water-mill.

About half a mile beyond the bridge, a footpath by the gate of a modern villa leads across the fields to Leigh, passing close to Leigh Place, an interesting old moated house screened by wood on three sides and farm buildings on the other, so that I had to make the drawing from the lawn inside the moat. The exterior of the house serves to show what depths of degradation were possible to bygone builders and architects; possibly the old timbering is still in position behind the buttresses and hideous brickwork.

The interior of the house is of much interest, having been spared by the philistines.

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Entering by a front door of old carved work, inserted in the wall there is a panel, showing figures, bunches of grapes, and scroll ornament, which has been moved from some other part of the house ; one of the front rooms contains a great old fireplace, with a priests' room or hiding-chamber in the chimney ; possibly in quiet times chambers like this were used for storing and smoking bacon ; the fire-back is ornamented with deer and other devices of the Ardernes, and there is a fine oak table ; most of the panelling and the woodwork of the fireplace have been painted and grained on the top of the old oak. The old staircase is good, and one of the upstairs rooms is entirely panelled and ceiled with oak, which is carved in low relief ; this must be the upper portion of the hall now cut in half by a floor and divided into rooms.

There is a curious inscription scratched on the stone mantelpiece of one of the bedrooms—

“Nonne mea peccata
quietem de ment X P. M.
Plura fue re Quam maculae
Viparae, nec dobit ullan
Salutem dei Typus.”

This has been translated as “ Will not my sins take from me my rest in the time of darkness (*i.e.* the tenth hour of the night) ; they have been more numerous than the spots of the viper, nor will the image of God grant me any security.”

It is not known what poor mind-sick soul cut this in the stone, but evidence points to it being the handiwork of a man already mentioned at Charlwood, whose life and death have attracted considerable attention from historians ; Nicholas



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Saunders, the Jesuit, who was supposed to die of starvation among the hills in Ireland after the failure of the Spanish invasion, which he accompanied in 1579. Anthony à Wood, writing about a century afterwards, quotes a narrative by Philip O'Sullivan, stating "that Father Saunders died owing to disease occasioned or aggravated by his hardships; but he died in his bed surrounded by friends and brethren in the faith which he had so zealously professed." He was a relative of the Copley family, who at that time owned Leigh Place, and it is probable that the tradition which makes this house his hiding-place is correct; his birthplace is only four miles away, and he would here be surrounded by friends and neighbours.

Brayley quotes from a framed panel in the house, which contained a list of early owners collected by Mr. R. C. Dendy. It is no longer visible, and its existence was unknown to the present tenant or to the previous one, who had resided for many years at Leigh Place, and whom I met by chance. It may, however, still exist somewhere under the varnished paint. This list of owners is somewhat fanciful, but may be summarised, as possibly Mr. Dendy had access to records no longer existing. "First the family of Brewse. John de Brewse escaped from King John, who had starved two of his brothers to death in Windsor Castle; he married a daughter of Lewellyan, Prince of Wales, and died in 1232. William, his son, was of Findon, Sussex, and his grandson, Sir John, lived at Leigh Place and was succeeded by his son, who died in 1419. John de Arderne was resident here in 1420, and was succeeded by his son John, Esquire of the body to Henry VII."

According to an inscription in the church, he must have

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been succeeded by Richard Arderne, who died in 1499. This was probably the last of the family, as in 1530 the estate was sold by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, to Edward Shelley of Findon. The estate passed from that family by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Shelley, to Sir Richard Copley, whose grandson, William, died in 1643 ; the property then devolved on his two sisters ; one of these, Mary, married John Weston of Sutton Place ; in 1649 the Westons assigned their interest to John Woodman, who had been their tenant for many years ; and two years later he sold Leigh Place to Robert Bristowe, who already had a lien on the estate which he afterwards bought from the Copleys of Gatton in 1655. In 1700 it was sold to James Budgen of Newdigate, and one of his descendants transferred the property to Richard Dendy in 1806.

Various relics have been found in the moat, including coins of Edward 1. and a cannon-ball, and a fine old silver cup was discovered behind the panelling about eighty years ago ; but of the personal history of the many owners in connection with the house little is known. More might have been gathered if the brasses and inscriptions in the church had not suffered from the destroyers.

The brass of John Arderne and Elizabeth, his wife, bears no date, but seems to represent the first of the family here (1420) ; from the clothing we may learn that he was a merchant ; his wife is shown with a horned headdress, a long cloak, and a dog, figures of three sons and two or three daughters ; two small shields of arms are said to show that they came originally from Warwickshire. There is a slab with a brass inscription to Richard Arderne and Joan, his wife, dated 1499 ; the figures have gone, but there are two ribbons with inscriptions and a shield of arms.

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Besides these Arderne memorials there is a small brass of the Trinity similar to the one at Blechingley, a much-defaced grave slab, dated 1720, and six mural monuments to members of the Dendy family. The pulpit is eighteenth-century work with new portions, the roof barrel vaulted and lined with wood ; the church was lengthened in 1890, and the present tower and spire built in place of the old belfry. The roof is covered with Horsham slates, and, though much restored, the church is pretty.

The few houses round the village green are, with the exception of one timbered cottage, of modern construction.

Half a mile south-east from the church, by the side of a knoll, Swains Farm has some old portions, and is said to have once been inhabited by Ben Jonson ; what that poet could have found to do here is difficult to surmise, unless he was hiding from the myrmidons of King James after the publication of *Eastward Hoe*, or compiling ciphers to vex the generations who followed him three centuries afterwards.

The manor of Shelwood was given to Merton Priory in 1156 by Henry II., and in 1539 it was granted to Sir Thomas Nevil by Henry VIII.; after his death in 1547 the estate was conveyed by his daughter and her husband, Sir Robert Southwell, to Henry Lechford, whose family retained it until 1634, when Sir Richard Lechford transferred all his lands in Surrey to Sir Garret Kemp and John Caryl. In 1649 it was sold to Edward Alston, and in the following year passed to Sir Ambrose Brown of Betchworth ; from his sons it was devised to his nephew, Thomas Jordan of Gatwick, and was heired by his sister, Mrs. Beaumont, whose grandson sold the estate in 1806 to the Duke of Norfolk. Shelwood Manor is now the residence of Frederick L. Crow, Esq.

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The only other house of importance in the neighbourhood is Mynthurst, the residence and property of Sir Henry Bell.

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Many crooked roads have to be traversed from Leigh to regain the main road east from Box Hill Farm which passes over the quiet stream of the Mole near the entrance to Betchworth Park, well known for the beauty of its avenue of lime trees and enormous Spanish chestnuts.

The history of West Betchworth is all of past times. In 1215 it was held by Sarah de Bendeville, in 1265 by John de Walton, and before 1313 by John de Berewyk ; for sixty years after his death it was held by the Husees, from whom it passed to the Fitzalans. In 1377 one of these obtained a licence to embattle his manor, and then built Betchworth Castle. The manor was held by them as Earls of Arundel until 1437, when it passed by marriage to Thomas Brown, who was afterwards knighted. In 1449 he obtained a licence to fortify and embattle his mansion, to empark his manor, and to hold manorial courts. Getting into trouble during the Wars of the Roses, his estates were forfeited to the Crown. In 1473 the estates were restored to his son, Sir George, who was executed and his lands forfeited a few years afterwards. They were again restored to his son, Sir Matthew, by Henry VII. in 1485, and retained by his descendants until after the death of Sir Adam Brown in 1690, when, by the marriage of his only daughter, they passed to William Fenwick ; and in 1727 were sold to Abraham Tucker, a philosopher and metaphysician, whose descendants held the estate for two generations. In 1798

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it was sold to Henry Peters, a London banker, who enlarged the estate, and from his son it was purchased by Henry T. Hope of Deepdene.

Betchworth Castle was divested of any military character by William Fenwick, and practically nothing is left of it now ; it still forms part of the Deepdene estate.

A little farther on, the Castle mill is still busily at work, though the Castle has ceased to exist ; this is probably the mill which was held by John de Berewyk about the beginning of the fourteenth century from the Abbess of Godstow, by the payment of one rose at midsummer in lieu of all services ; there were nine acres of arable land and one of meadow ; and no doubt the present miller would not raise any objection to the same rent now. A similar rent is still paid to the warden of St. Olave's Grammar School in Southwark, and will have to be paid until 2156 A.D., when the lease of a certain piece of land expires. Dorking has still the redeeming features of meadows and water amid the new houses and old alleys, and might be compared with a woman having plain features and fine hair—nothing much to look at, but surrounded by an aureole of beauty.

The townspeople of the nineteenth century went about their improvements in a singularly left-handed fashion ; in 1836 they pulled down most of the old church and built an uglier one, replacing this some thirty years afterwards with a structure of modern Gothic, which they finished in 1874 by the completion of the tower and spire as a memorial to Bishop Wilberforce, who had laid the foundation stone in 1873. The only memorials of interest are those to Jeremiah Markland and Abraham Tucker in the church, and to John Hoole in the churchyard.

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The market house and town hall, a sixteenth-century building, stood near the "Red Lion" until 1813, when the Duke of Norfolk was allowed to take it down on the promise of erecting a new one at his own expense; unfortunately the Duke died before the work was begun, and his executors refused to proceed with the building, but paid £100, which had been realised from the sale of the old materials, to the vestry, who spent the money repairing the pavements. The "wise men of Gotham" could hardly have bettered the transaction.

Many of the old inns have ceased to exist, and most of the signs have been changed; the Cross House, held from the manor of the Knights of St. John, and by its name recalling the days of the Crusades, became the White Horse, to mark the advent of the Hanoverian dynasty; the "Cardinal's Cap" became the Red Lion, no doubt in deference to the nationality of the Hope family, and added an assembly room to its attractions in 1820; the "Queen's Arms" extended from West Street to the Bell Inn, and is described as the largest of all. Various fragments of others still exist in West Street, and in North Street there is a considerable portion of the "Chequers," a very old inn, its sign being the arms of the Fitzwarren family; this was entirely rebuilt and renamed, becoming the "Old King's Head" after the Restoration. The front of this has been superseded by new buildings, and we cannot now tell what it was like; but one thing is certain, it did not fit the description of the "Marquis of Granby" as given by Dickens; yet the majority of specialists in the topography of his works incline to the belief that this was the house where he placed the wittiest of all his characters—"Old Weller."

This may have arisen from another cause; while sketching



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there, an old man came to look and gossip ; he had known the inn all his life, and, I think, had worked there as a youth ; he assured me that he remembered many visits of Charles Dickens—"he used to sit quietly in a corner of the bar parlour and sip brandy and water, and said little to anyone ; we knew his name quite well, but among ourselves we always spoke of him as ' Pickwick.' " This bar parlour was entered by the door near the middle of the pilastered seventeenth-century brickwork shown in the drawing. He did not remember any coach-driver answering the description, but Weller has always been a common name in the town.

The legend may have been embroidered backwards, but there does not seem to have ever been a tavern in Dorking which answered the description and situation given by Dickens, though there are several in other parts of Surrey—for instance, the "Marquis of Granby" in High Street, Epsom. A Mr. Heap was pastor of the chapel near by in 1753.

There are a few old timber and plaster house fronts in West Street, and a large Independent chapel which stands on the site of the oldest Nonconformist chapel in Surrey, founded by the Rev. John Wood, who had to resign his living at North Chapel near Petworth, in consequence of the Act of Uniformity in 1662 ; he then retired to Westcott, where he had a small estate, and preached in Dorking, attracting a large congregation. A chapel which had been built in 1719 was taken down and rebuilt on a larger scale in 1834, and this has again been superseded by a larger edifice ; the organ, introduced in 1835, was formerly in the chapel royal at Brighton. Two of the ministers were well-known scholars of their day—John Mason, A.M., 1729, and Andrew Kippis, D.D., 1750.

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A house at the end of West Street, now known as the Rectory, has many charming features, though much altered towards the road. This was formerly Sondes Place, and with about eight acres of land, was given by the Duke of Norfolk in 1838, in place of the old vicarage in Back Lane, which had become dilapidated.

The family of Sondes were, from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, lords of the manor of Puttenden, near Lingfield, and the unnamed founder's tomb in Horley Church may be that of one of the family.

Their association with the Dorking district arose from their ownership of the manor of Bradley in Holmwood, and Mickleham, which was purchased by Richard Sondes of Alpiston, Sussex, from the Bradele family; it descended to Sir George Sondes, who in 1676 was raised to the peerage as Viscount Sondes and Earl of Feversham; dying in 1677, he was succeeded in his titles by Lewis de Duras, Marquis de Blanquefort, who had married his eldest daughter, and was Captain of the Guard, commander of the troops who defeated Monmouth at Sedgemoor, and General of the army of James II. when William of Orange arrived; dying without issue in 1711, the titles became extinct and the estates devolved on his wife's nephew, Viscount Sondes, heir-apparent to the Earl of Rockingham, and were afterwards bequeathed to Lewis Monson, Lord Sondes. These estates were afterwards purchased by Henry Talbot and sold by him to Edward Walter of Bury Hill.

In the vicinity of Dorking there are many large houses, but with one exception they are all of comparatively modern date; of these newer buildings Deepdene is the most famous.

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In 1655 John Evelyn writes more about the grounds than the house, Charles Howard had then been in possession for three years ; seventeen years later Aubrey gives more detailed description, and, influenced by "a very civil entertainment" provided for him by the steward on his master's order, he waxes eloquent. "The house was not made for grandeur, but retirement, neat, elegant, and suitable to the modesty and solitude of the proprietor, a Christian philosopher, who, in this iron age, lives up to that of primitive times. . . . In short, it is an epitome of Paradise, and the Garden of Eden seems well imitated here ; . . . where the pleasures of the garden, etc., were so ravishing that I can never expect any enjoyment beyond it, but the kingdom of Heaven."

Several of the Howards who succeeded appear to have been imbued with similar quiet philosophic tastes ; the last who lived here had built a new house, and died in 1786. The estate was sold to Sir William Burrell in 1791, and his widow resided at Deepdene until 1802 ; afterwards it was acquired by Thomas Hope, a Scottish merchant of Amsterdam, a wealthy man who wrote much on many subjects—costume, furniture, architecture, metaphysics, and a novel which elevated him into rivalry with Byron and Le Sage (curious comparisons). He could afford to gratify his taste in the fine arts, and did so at Deepdene, building the greater part of the present house ; but the south-east front was added by his son. The house, with its many treasures, and the grounds, were formerly freely shown to visitors, but in these days this is no longer possible.

It is now the property of Lord Henry F. H. Pelham-Clinton-Hope.

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Bury Hill is a little distance west ; the house is a large plain structure built by Edward Walter on part of the waste of the manor of Milton, which he enclosed and planted ; the lake was formed by him. After his death in 1780 it was heired by his daughter, who married Viscount Grimston, afterwards Lord Verulam. In 1805 the estate was sold to Robert Barclay. The side wings have been raised and considerable alterations made since that time. Its present owner is Robert Barclay, Esq.

The Rookery is about two miles west from Dorking ; formerly called Chert Gate, the estate was bought from the Comber family by Abraham Tucker about 1750 ; nine years later he sold it to Mr. David Malthus, who erected the house and improved the grounds. It is a pleasantly situated convenient house, on a terrace facing a lake formed by damming the Pip Brook ; any architectural pretensions it has lead to the belief that the man who spoiled Leigh Place had a hand in the building of this ; there are similar buttresses with little pyramids on the top, and some of the minor features are the same.

The fame of David Malthus is rather overshadowed by that of his son, but he was a friend, correspondent, and one of the executors of Rousseau ; probably influenced by the writings of that philosopher, he translated Goethe's *Sorrows of Werter* and St. Pierre's *Paul and Virginia*, and inflicted these two lachrymose works on the suffering English reader.

His son, who became the Rev. Thomas Malthus, was born here in 1766, and in 1805 was appointed Professor of Modern History and Political Economy at Haileybury College.

He was one of the most celebrated (and abused) political economists of his time, and his *Principles of Population* was

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one of the books which Cobbett, with all his powers of vituperation, could hardly find words to express himself about; self-evident facts, contrary to his opinions, were facts which he resolutely declined to look at; he refers to the author and this book on many occasions, and this is one bouquet of the flowers of language used about both in 1826.

“The principle of the monster Malthus, who has persuaded the unfeeling Oligarchs, and their toad eaters, with the pretence that man has a natural propensity to breed faster than food can be raised for the increase. It seemed to me, that one way of exposing this mixture of madness and of blasphemy was to take a look, now that the harvest is in, at the produce, the mouths, the condition, and the changes that have taken place, in a spot like this (the valley of the Wiltshire Avon), which God has favoured with every good that He has to bestow upon man.”

In 1768 David Malthus sold the property to Richard Fuller, who made many improvements and enlarged the property, which is at present for sale. A public right-of-way exists close past the house and up through the beech woods to Wotton and Coldharbour—beautiful paths all the way.

The road eastward leads through Westcott Street, a prettily situated village with a modern church designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, which is a much better piece of work than most of his so-called restorations. A considerable number of good residences and modern cottages are scattered along the main road and round a loop which encircles the mill pond; a hamlet at the east end is known as Milton Street.

Nearer Dorking a lodge gate marks one of the entrances to Milton Court, about a quarter of a mile distant. A large

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tree-fringed mill pond is near the house, and much wood has been planted since Allom made his drawing about the middle of the nineteenth century ; the house is no longer visible, except from a path across the fields to the north.

Considerable alterations have been made ; a portion has been added on the north end, and on the south a new wing has been built ; the five peaked gables of varying sizes have been provided with semicircular tops showing a strange lack of symmetry, and many of the windows have been enlarged.

The age of the house does not appear to be definitely known—it is generally described as late Elizabethan ; the great staircase is similar in some ways to that at Great Fosters, a house dated 1578, but that does not imply that the stairway is of that date.

At Milton Court there may exist the nucleus of a sixteenth-century house, but until it was granted to the Evelyns this would only be a farm ; the lines of the old gables can still be traced below the modern brickwork, and point to a date about 1610—a period when there was much reconstruction in this class of houses ; many of the great halls then had a floor inserted, and the upper part was divided into several rooms ; the narrow, winding stairs were superseded by wider ones having straight flights with heavy newel posts and balusters, elaborately turned and carved, so that they become one of the principal features of the interior. Straight flights did exist ; there is an example at Hampton Court with solid logs as treads, but specimens of the really ornamental Jacobean stairs, where the date is known approximately, exist at Aston Hall and at Smallfield and Slyfield in Surrey, while the brick gables can be compared with those at Mickleham and West Horsley, though in both these instances



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the sweeping curve at the base had not been abandoned, one little gable at Milton Court still retains it.

However, Milton Court as it stands is a beautiful old house, and by its situation must always have been so ; and it is a proof that the abstruse learning of the scholars and philosophers of the eighteenth century did not prevent them from choosing pleasant places to dwell in.

On the memorial to Jeremiah Markland in Dorking Church, who died here in 1776, we may read, " His very accurate knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages was employed in correcting and explaining the best antient authors ; and more particularly in illustrating the Sacred Scriptures. To these rational pursuits he sacrificed every worldly view ; contented with the inward pleasure resulting from such studies."

But, gazing round this little paradise, we are compelled to think that the good man did not sacrifice it all ; here in the sweet summer days, when the air is laden with the scent of roses, the outer world seems very far away, recalled only by the striking of the clock or the bells of Dorking Church ; it might be the garden of the poet.

"Not wholly in the busy world, nor quite
Beyond it, blooms the garden that I love.
News from the humming city comes to it
In sounds of funeral and marriage bells ;
And sitting muffled in dark leaves, you hear
The windy clanging of the minster clock
Although between it and the garden lies
A league of grass."

Far across the fields there was the occasional rattle of a railway train, but from my corner I could only see " Denbies,"

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perched high on the hilltop, with its flag stirring languidly in the faint breeze.

The manor was held in the days of Edward the Confessor from that king by Uluric, the arable land being then about five hundred acres, and a mill assessed at two shillings. In the beginning of the thirteenth century it was held by a family named Paganel, and was transferred by marriage to John de Somery. In 1316 the manor belonged to the prioress and nuns of Kilburn, and remained with them until the priory was suppressed in 1536, when Milton Court was annexed to the honour of Hampton Court. When Mary ascended the throne it was settled on the restored monastery of Sheen ; that was suppressed by Queen Elizabeth, and in 1599 the estate was conveyed by letters patent to George Evelyn of Long Ditton, to hold as one-fortieth part of a knight's fee at an annual rent of forty shillings.

George Evelyn died a few years afterwards, and in all probability the house was first made into a residence by his son Thomas ; the manor has remained with that family ever since ; the house is now the residence of Mrs. Rate, to whom I am indebted for permission to sketch.

The manor of Westcott was held in 1205 by Gilbert de Aquila, and it was held by his son until 1235, when his estates were forfeited for going to Normandy without a licence from the king. The manor was then granted to Gilbert Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and was held by the families of Valence and Hastings until the death of Earl John Hastings in 1390 from a wound received at a tournament at Woodstock. The property then passed to William Beauchamp, son of the Earl of Warwick, and in 1402 was transferred to the Nevils, by whose descendant, Henry Nevil,

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Lord Abergavenney, it was sold in 1629 to Richard Evelyn of Wotton. J. H. Evelyn, Esq., of Wotton is now the lord of the manor.

The manor of Dorking is supposed to have been given by William the Conqueror to his daughter, Gundreda, on her marriage to the first Earl of Warren and Surrey ; from them it devolved on the Fitzalans in 1347 ; after the execution of Richard, Earl of Arundel, in 1397, a large part of his estates were granted to Thomas Mowbray, afterwards Duke of Norfolk. The last of the Mowbrays who held the title died in 1476, and the inheritance returned to the Fitzalans ; this portion afterwards passed to the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk and Earls of Arundel, and their descendants. In 1587 it was conveyed to Sir Thomas Brown of Betchworth, and passed with that property until 1797, when it was again purchased by Charles, Duke of Norfolk, and remains with that family now.

From Milton Court, a footpath over the fields and railway leads to the bottom of the hill near Denbies. Originally a farmhouse belonging to Mr. Wakeford, this was purchased in 1734 by Jonathan Tyers, the proprietor of Vauxhall Gardens, a gentleman who seems to have taken himself very seriously, and who diverted his thoughts from the frivolity of his business in town, by laying out and elaborating all sorts of solemn freaks in and around his dwelling here, so that he and his guests should be impressed by the mutability of life. We may think that the giddiness of his London gardens lay needlessly heavy on his soul ; after all, they were only an alcoholised version of modern exhibitions, without the exhibits, and he need not have fretted over it so much. These things at Denbies have all vanished, and the

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house has been rebuilt twice over since then, the present mansion being erected about the middle of the nineteenth century. The house erected by Jonathan Tyers was, I think, the first of these hilltop dwellings in Surrey, though there are many of them now.

It is well worth the trouble to climb the hill to look over the landscape surrounding Dorking, to wander over Ranmore Common and see the panorama spread before the eyes.

It is possible to walk along the Downs to Guildford ; without a thorough knowledge of the tracks, it is a laborious venture ; but it is quite easy to reach Hackhurst Down and descend into Shere and Abinger, or turn northwards to Effingham by a track much favoured by pedestrians from town.

Polesden-Lacy, which under another name forms the central scene of Meredith's novel *Diana*, was acquired in 1804 by the trustees of the second wife of Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Miss Ogle had a dowry of £5000, and probably Polesden was bought by her trustees to try and preserve it from extinction, as they were bound to know the condition of Sheridan's affairs. After his death in 1816 many alterations were made. About 1826 the estate was enlarged, the house pulled down, and the present large mansion built on the same site.

In the sixteenth century the manor of Polesden-Lacy was held by William Sackville of Dorking, and from his heirs it passed to the Stydolfs ; the last heiress of these died in 1734, and the estate devolved on her third husband, Thomas Edwin, who was succeeded by his nephew, Charles Edwin, and by him it was bequeathed to Charles Windham, son of his sister Ann ; in 1784 it was sold to Admiral Sir Francis Geary, and by him to the

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Sheridan trustees. It was afterwards acquired by Mr. Bonsor, and is now the residence of the Hon. Mrs. Greville.

Near it is Phenice Farm ; the name is an instance of the old-fashioned plural being transformed into a different word altogether ; it is merely the plural of vine, from a vineyard that once existed here.

A little farther on, the road passes Chapel Farm, believed to take its name from a chapel founded there early in the fourteenth century, but nothing appears to be known of its history ; near this is Camilla Lacy, named after the title of Fanny Burney's novel. Soon after her marriage Mr. Lock fitted up a cottage on this spot for the D'Arblays, and they lived here until her husband, General D'Arblay, joined the army of Napoleon in 1802. After their departure the house was occupied by different families, and many changes made ; a later owner, Thomas Hudson, who died in 1835, enlarged the estate and reconstructed the house, which has been much altered since then. The thick hedge of yew, holly, and box may have been there in Fanny Burney's time, but little else is left of eighteenth-century date. It is now the residence of Frederick L. Harris, Esq.

From the road between this and Burford Bridge there are fine views of the shoulder of Box Hill ; the foliage of these trees gives a most un-English appearance, though the theory that box trees were first planted here by Thomas, Earl of Arundel about the beginning of the seventeenth century, has long been exploded, by the name being traced back to the thirteenth century, and the fact that the Earl was never in possession of the estate.

In 1602 Sir Matthew Brown of Betchworth granted a lease

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of a warren and lodge here, in which Thomas Constable, the tenant, covenanted to use his utmost exertions to preserve the yew, box, and all other trees growing thereon ; and six years later an account was rendered to Sir Ambrose Brown by his guardian, showing that the rent for box trees cut down on the sheep-walk was £50. In 1797 all the box trees over twenty years' growth upon the hill were sold to Messrs. Nicholson and Hoskins for £10,000, not more than three hundred and eighty tons to be cut in one year. This shows that a much greater area of the timber must have existed than is the case now ; the enterprise proved ruinous from over-production, and we may be glad that it did so, otherwise the hill would have lost one of its most characteristic features. The theory that the tree is native to the soil is difficult of demonstration, when it is considered that this is the only spot in Britain where it is found of large size and in great quantities growing wild. Evelyn found plants of it on other Surrey hills, and these may be found to-day ; but most thriving trees of native growth have a wider distribution.

Box Hill has been so long an open space of delight, where everyone was free to come and go, that recent developments have come as a surprise to most people, few of whom dreamed that by any possibility it might be let on building leases ; and there is a clamour about public rights in consequence.

As a matter of fact, there are no public rights of any sort or kind—not even of misty tradition ; little more than a century ago the estate was bought for hard cash from one of a long succession of private owners by Thomas Hope, who had earned his wealth abroad and spent it here, and the public have no more title to control the development of the estate than they have to

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say whether the owner of a suburban lawn shall lay out the ground in flower beds or build a chicken run on it.

In an age when so many people are expecting to get "something for nothing," Box Hill may help to bring home the truth, that the expectation, when worked out to its logical conclusion, only means "paying for everything"; and the remedy is in their own hands.

Those who have ascended the hill from Dorking or Burford Bridge only, smile at the idea of erecting houses on the top of the down; but, if they approach it from Walton by Pebble Combe they will find a road presenting little difficulty for horse-drawn vehicles and none at all for motors.

The hill depends largely on the beauty of its surroundings, the wooded valley below, and the long green slope from the crest to Juniper Hall; if these are broken up into building plots the charm is destroyed so far as the public are concerned. No man climbs Box Hill for the purpose of looking down on slate roofs and smoking chimneys—he can do that in too many places in Surrey already, where the valleys have been filled with crowded modern slums; and it is to be hoped that some means may be found to preserve this spot for the benefit of this and future generations.

Since these lines were written, a benefactor has appeared in the person of Mr. Leopold Salomans of Norbury Park, who has purchased 235 acres of Box Hill with the intention of vesting the property in the National Trust, so that the ground shall be maintained as an open space for ever, and subject to the supervision of a local committee of management. In this matter the great London public may have had more luck than they were really entitled to, but all honour to the giver.

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Passing through the modestly named hamlet of West Humble, we reach the main road between Burford Bridge and Pixham ; the latter may have been at one time the home of fairies, but, if so, they have been scared away by modern developments. Probably the name is a corruption of Pipsham, derived from the name of the brook which joins the Mole here.

Burford Lodge was first built in 1776 by John Eckersall, and afterwards was held by different owners, until about 1800 it was purchased by George Barclay ; his widow resided here until 1837, when the estate was sold to James Gordon, M.D. It is now the residence of Sir Trevor Lawrence. In the portion of the grounds nearest the hill, the first and second "swallow holes" occur, where the river Mole, to justify its name, dives underground ; some water is left in the bed of the river even in dry seasons, but below this it is a languid stream except in flood time. Defoe, in his *Tour through Great Britain*, tells a story about these which seems to require a grain of salt. "In October 1676 there happened a very sudden and hasty flood which swelled the river so high at Betchworth Castle, where they had fish ponds fed by the river ; it overflowed their ponds and carried off all their fish. Sir Adam Brown, his son, and the young gentlemen of the neighbourhood came all to Dorking, where they raised a troop of young fellows and boys, and all went together to that part of the river which runs by the stomacher at Box Hill, where there was a meadow of four or five acres, hollow in the middle, like the shape of a dripping pan ; one bank of the river was overflowed, but they set themselves to raise it and cut off the river from the field ; in about two nights and a day the water sunk all

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away ; and the like quantity of fish, great and small, I believe, were never taken at once in this kingdom out of so small a river."

The "Hare and Hounds" Inn, where Nelson stayed and where Keats finished his "Endymion," weaving into the poem descriptions of the neighbouring scenery, has now become a well-known hotel, where Mrs. Barbauld's poetry, or that of Mrs. Knowles, is no longer applicable—

"Art thou of Solitude in quest?
Pause here and take the solemn view,
Behold this spirit-calming vale!
Here stillness reigns,—'tis stillness all."

Especially towards the end of the week, if the modern wanderer is in quest of solitude here, he will remain so, and the spirit-calming vale does not fulfil its functions properly to the accompaniment of throbbing motors and a well-defined odour of petrol. George Meredith had his home near by for many years, and to him Box Hill was always a source of inspiration.

So great have been the changes here since the end of the eighteenth century that it almost seems as if poor Major Labilliere made a mistake in being buried standing on his head on the slope of the hill, as all the world was upside down to him after he was jilted, and he wished to be right at last ; many things have turned round since 1800.

Poets, from Spenser downwards to the middle of the nineteenth century, have described or praised the river Mole, and, attracted by its burrowing propensities, have likened it to a shy nymph, and wreathed it with all sorts of fantastic imagery.

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In this happy valley as they called it—when there is a sufficient supply of water—the Mole is a quiet stream in beautiful surroundings ; when it is dry, or nearly so, it is decidedly unattractive.

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The main road northwards skirts the Fridley meadows, and most of the way is now securely fenced and offers little chance to leave the dusty highway.

The Fridley estate was settled by John de Mikelham on his son-in-law, John Dewey, whose descendants assumed the name of Fridele. In 1435 Roger de Fridele demised the estate to James Janyn and Nicholas Glover, with the advowson, to hold for one hundred years at the rent of one red rose.

In 1492 it was transferred to William Widdowson, who, as appears from his brass in Mickleham Church, was a citizen and mercer of London, and died in 1514. In 1528 the estate was in the possession of Sir John Mordaunt, and remained with his descendants until 1571, when it was bought by William Leaver, whose descendants sold part of the estate in 1651 and the remainder in 1701, the owner of the whole, then, being John Spencer.

In 1762 the estate was conveyed to Cecil Bisshopp, who made extensive plantations on Mickleham Downs with the intention of building a house there, but, changing his mind, he enlarged and fitted up as a residence a roadside ale-house known as the "Royal Oak," giving it the name of Juniper Hall from the abundance of these trees in the vicinity. In 1779 Sir Cecil Bisshopp, as he was then, died, and the Fridley property was

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sold to David Jenkinson, a wealthy lottery keeper, whose grave is in Mickleham Churchyard. He built a new house nearer Mickleham and named it Juniper Hill, afterwards leasing the old dwelling to a small colony of French people whom the Revolution had compelled to flee from their native land ; among these were Count de Narbonne, Minister of War, the Duc de Montmorency, the Marquise de la Chatre, Madame de Broglie, Madame de Staël, M. de Jancourt, M. Girardin, M. Sicard, M. D'Arblay, and others. The Princess d'Henin, Talleyrand, and others were occasional visitors. The Fridley estate was broken up in 1800, and, though there is a grove of fine old cedars in the grounds, the present Juniper Hall is a modern building—the residence of George MacAndrew, Esq.

Juniper Hill, with the plantations and grounds extending to the church and the downs, was purchased by Sir Lucas Pepys, President of the College of Physicians, who died in 1830, leaving by his first wife, the Countess of Rothes, two sons and one daughter, who heired the estate. It is now the residence of Leonard Cunliffe, Esq.

Fridley Farm is almost opposite Juniper Hall ; this was owned and occupied for a number of years by Richard Sharp, F.R.S., one of the colony of clever people who lived in the vicinity about the end of the eighteenth century. He had been a personage in distinguished society from the days of Dr. Johnson to those of Byron and Rogers, and, shortly before he died, published a volume of essays in prose and verse, which contains much sound sense. His nickname, "Conversation Sharp," seems rather a shallow title for a man who talked well, but also had the astuteness to amass a large fortune in commerce.

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There is little doubt that Dickens borrowed the nickname for one of his characters—"Conversation Kenge."

Mickleham is a small roadside village ; the church, standing on a slightly elevated piece of ground, is picturesque, but has suffered so much from different restorations in the nineteenth century that little old work is left.

The massive Norman tower is surmounted by a small shingled spire, and buttresses have been added in later times ; the western porch is old—probably fifteenth century—and the doorway is Norman—some local authorities say it is partly Saxon ; two coffin slabs of Petworth marble, discovered during repairs in 1823, lie in the porch ; traces of inscriptions are visible on the edges, but these are not sufficiently legible to determine their history, though they are believed to date from the thirteenth century.

Internally the church bears little resemblance to what is shown in drawings made before the restoration of 1848, except the chancel arch ; the square pillars introduced at that time have since been removed and replaced by round columns, and the galleries removed.

The Norbury Chapel, which was formerly arranged as a squire's pew, with seats for servants and tables and chairs for the gentry, is now thrown open. It contains an altar tomb, with the brasses of William Widdowson and his wife ; figures of a man and woman kneeling at desks, with a supplicatory scroll above each ; the man has long hair and wears a citizen's gown, his wife a hanging headdress, and holding a rosary ; between them are the Mercers' arms ; three other shields are missing. The inscription reads, " Here lyeth the body of Wylliam Wyddowson, citizen



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and mercer of London and of ye parych chyrch of Mekyllham late patrone : and allsoo here lyeth ye body of Jone hys wyfe, the whych dyssesyd the 27th day of Septe'byr the 5th yere of King Hary the 8th on whoys soullys God have mercy. Ame." I doubt if these brasses belong to the tomb.

There are memorials to members of the Tooth, Blake, and Grisselle families ; and a large slab on the wall records the death of William Lock, Esq., of Norbury Park in 1810, aged seventy-eight, and nine members of his family. The pulpit is elaborately carved, and the square font is late Norman, of Sussex marble. Externally the only old work in the church is the wall of the Norbury Chapel ; a very large plant of ivy covers most of the north wall.

The circumstantial account of the wedding of Fanny Burney in this church—Mr. Lock giving her away, as her father was opposed to the match—can hardly be correct unless the little lady was married twice to the same man ; the ceremony is recorded in the register of the Sardinian Chapel, London, on August 1, 1793.

Most of the houses in the village are of modern date, with the exception of the "long cottage," facing the street, north from the church, and, nearer the gate of Norbury Park, a building with ogee gables bearing the date 1636 ; this is known as "The Old House," a good deal added to and altered in the front, the rather clumsy bricks laid in Flemish bond show that the date is nearly correct.

I have drawn it from the back, partly to get away from the new work, and partly to show the kind of scenery surrounding the village. Probably this was the manor house before the

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present Mickleham Hall was built by Charles H. Talbot about 1785. It is now the residence of Archibald G. Pollock, Esq.

The ancient history of the manor is somewhat involved ; after the Conquest it was in the hands of that land-hungry prelate, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and forfeited for his rebellion by William Rufus.

Early in the twelfth century Henry 1. gave one hide of land here to the ancestors of Robert de Mikelham, to hold at a rent of ten shillings ; his descendant Gilbert married Alice, daughter of Peter de Rivall, who settled on them an additional thirty-six acres, with the rents and services of Adrian and Roger de Tune, and also the rents and customs of two natavi (Englishmen) with their bodies and their progeny, in consideration for which they had to pay him annually one pound of cummin.

Their son and heir married Alice, daughter of John de Aperdele, on whom he settled the property for her life ; in consequence of her death three years later, he obtained a reconveyance, but, as this was done without the king's licence, he had to pay a fine.

In 1336 John and Margery Dewey held the manor from the king, at a rent of twelve shillings, to pay the castle guard at Rochester Castle, "which three tenants in villenage ought to pay." In the same year Roger de Aperdele purchased *the said tenants*, with the major part of the lands, rents, etc., adjoining the manor of Mickleham, which had been granted to him in 1332.

In 1367 his son, John, was outlawed for felony and this estate escheated to the Crown ; three years later the manor was granted to William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester ; but

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towards the close of the fifteenth century it had come by marriage into the hands of the Stydolfs ; from them it passed to the Tryons ; afterwards it was purchased by Anthony Chapman, who, in 1775, sold the estate to Benjamin Bond Hopkins of Pains Hill ; five years later it was acquired by Charles H. Talbot, who erected Mickleham Hall. The estate was long held by his descendants. It is now the property and residence of H. H. Gordon Clark, Esq.

At the north end of the village a bridge across the Mole leads into Norbury Park ; in dry weather the river is merely a succession of stagnant pools encircling the lower park, where the old manor house stood until 1774. The site is now occupied by the farm buildings of the estate, though the old walled garden still remains.

The manor of Norbury was held by William Husee in 1315 from Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester ; by 1404 the Husee family was represented by one daughter, who married William Wymeldon ; before the end of the same century the Wymeldon family was represented by women only, and the estates were divided among the sisters. Isabel, the eldest, was the wife of Thomas Stydolf, a member of an ancient Kentish family settled at Stydolf Place near Seale, and Norbury became her portion ; it was held by their descendants for several generations.

The Sir Francis Stydolf who was the owner when John Evelyn came here in 1655 died in that year, and was succeeded by his son, Richard, created a baronet soon after the Restoration, who died in 1676, when the estate once more went to the female side ; he left two daughters—Frances, Lady Astley, and Margaret, wife of Thomas Tryon ; by them the estate was sold

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to Anthony Chapman of London, a man who bought and sold many estates in this neighbourhood at that time, and impoverished them all before selling again.

Evelyn mentions the innumerable walnut trees, the hills shaded with yew and box, "which made it seem like summer all the winter"; the quantity of walnut trees may be judged from the tithe of £30 paid on their produce by the Stydols. To Mr. Chapman all this was merely valuable timber to be cut down and sold; and he left very little standing on the whole estate, except the grove of old yews, and probably these survived owing to the difficulty of removing them.

His title to do these things may have been doubtful, and apparently as a precaution he and his solicitor destroyed most of the ancient deeds connected with the estate.

In 1774 he found a purchaser in William Lock; by that time the old manor house had become ruinous from neglect, and it was taken down, except a part of the north end, which was turned into a farmhouse. Mr. Lock built a new house on the top of the hill, a plain, substantial dwelling of two stories, with a projecting oriel in front, similar in type to Hatchlands, near Clandon; the special apartment was a large drawing-room, which he employed Barrett, Cipriani, Gilpin, and Pastorini to decorate with panoramic scenery designed to take up and carry on to the walls the views from the various windows.

Mr. Lock was a wealthy man, clever, accomplished, and amiable, who was patron and fairy godmother to a large circle of literary, artistic, and distinguished people, for whom he kept open house. Everyone appeared to be his friend, and, though many of them were letter writers, nothing but good is recorded of him.

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It was the time of the “romantics,” and many things received new names. No doubt the title, “Druids’ Grove,” and the names attached to the various old yews originated then ; cowslips grew in the meadows, so a neighbouring farm became Cowslip Farm, while the countryside blossomed into Vales and Groves. The green meadows and the soft rounded scenery suited their taste exactly, and there is no doubt it was a “happy valley” for the guests at Norbury and the cultured people all around.

Besides the better-known visitors to Norbury, the list includes the names of William Guthrie, the historian, Samuel Singer, and Jeremiah Dyson, the friend of Charles Lamb and Akenside ; the distinguished colony of French *émigrés* at Juniper Hall were frequent and rather depressing guests—they were so full of tears and troubles.

Perhaps Fanny Burney attracted M. D’Arblay by her cheerful sympathy ; at any rate they were married, and Mr. Lock provided them with a cottage to live in—this, I think, must have been at Great Bookham, as she turned her hand to tragedy after marriage, writing *Edwin and Elgitha*, which not even the genius of Mrs. Siddons could render successful, and did not occupy “Camilla Cottage” until after that novel was published at a later time. It is often said that she bought this cottage from the profits of the novel, but that is unlikely, as it remained the property of Mr. Lock after her departure to France, and he had died before her return to England.

Mr. Lock died in 1810, and his family quitted Norbury, which was sold in 1819 to Mr. Robinson, and after being held by different owners it was purchased in 1848 by Thomas Grissell, who altered and enlarged the house and abridged the public access

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to the park ; other alterations have been made since his death. It is now the estate and residence of Leopold Salomans, Esq.

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The prettiest of the two ways towards Leatherhead is the path which follows the riverside where one can see the lost waters bubble up again, and once more become a living stream flickering in the sunlight as it moves among the sedges. The other follows the drive across a bridge, and by a side path reaches the road near the sham antique lodge gate, which, with the bridges here and at Mickleham, was built by Mr. Sperling, who was the owner after 1824.

From this northward to the town one side of the road is occupied by large houses with considerable grounds ; on the other open fields and meadows extend to the bridge at Thorncroft, where springs from Leatherhead Downs come in to help the still attenuated stream of the Mole.

In the Domesday Survey the name of this manor is written Tornecrosta, and considerable ingenuity has been expended in striving to connect it with the Sheriffs' tourne, a meeting of itinerant justices. It may just as well refer to an ancient crossing or ford here, from which the road can still be traced past the house, under the railway, and out on the road south-east of Fetcham Park ; owing to the sinking of the river, this ford would often be practicable, when that by the bridge lower down was deep in water. The name gradually changed into Tornecroft, and finally Thorncroft. Another possible explanation may refer to a croft of land held here in 1235 by William Frankelen, by

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the service of finding a booth for holding the county court ; another was held by Walter de Hore by the service of finding a house for a prison ; a third was held by William Oxencroft by the service of finding a pound for cattle taken for the king's debt at the same court, which was removed to Guildford about the close of the fourteenth century.

The manor was given in 1270 by Philip Basset and his wife Ela, Countess Dowager of Warwick, to Walter de Merton to endow the college which he had founded at Malden and afterwards removed to Oxford ; that college had received two hundred acres in the same parish in 1264. The manor has been held by Merton College ever since, the manor house, on the site of the present mansion, being leased from them.

The first manor house is supposed to have been built by Robert Gardyner, chief sergeant of the cellar to Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards occupied by Richard Dalton and his son, both of whom held the same office in the seventeenth century. In 1666 the house was occupied by Sir Thomas Bludworth, the Lord Mayor of London, who made such poor showing during the great fire.

The old house was pulled down, and the present one erected by Henry C. Boulton about 1772 ; it was considerably enlarged by his nephew, Henry ; but he afterwards removed to a dryer atmosphere at Givons Grove. Later tenants were James Trower, one of the Masters in Chancery, and Lieutenant-Colonel Drinkwater Bethune, who served in the siege of Gibraltar and wrote a history of the operations there ; his daughter inherited her father's literary ability and wrote a poem descriptive of the "River Mole," which was immensely popular after its publication

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in 1839. The lodge by the bridge was designed by Colonel Bethune.

The Lynk House obtained its name from the ancient obligation by which the tenant had to provide a torch or link to burn before the altar of St. Nicholas in the parish church; the house was enlarged and elaborated by Mr. Cotton about 1826; it was then named the Priory. He lived here until 1840; it was afterwards occupied by Mrs. Bond, and is now the residence of Arthur H. Tritton, Esq.

Another house near this has a history extending to the fifteenth century, a chantry chapel attached to it in the church having been built in the time of Henry VII. Early in the sixteenth century it was held by Robert Cheseman, who died in 1547. In the reign of Charles II. it belonged to Sir Thomas Bludworth, whose sister, Ann Bludworth Jones, became the second wife of Judge Jeffreys in 1679. It is said that after the Revolution of 1688 Jeffreys came here at great risk to visit his daughter, who was dying, and remained concealed in a vault for some time.

The church register shows that a daughter of his died here on 2nd December 1688, and a vault is said to exist in the house, but these are the only proofs of the incident. Jeffreys had some good points in his sombre character, and the story is possible.

The present house, a large building of red brick, is variously stated to have been erected by Dr. Akehurst in 1710, and by Lieutenant-Colonel Gore, who died there in 1739; it was bequeathed by his son, Henry Gore, in 1777, to the heirs-male of his daughter Catherine, wife of William Wade, master of the ceremonies at Bath. Their only son was lost at sea in the *John*

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Palmer, with his wife and four children, in 1813 ; the property was divided among his three sisters, and the "Mansion" was assigned to Emilia, wife of Philip Champion de Crespigny ; it was afterwards owned by Colonel Spicer and by Mr. Bland, and then became a grammar school.

The church is a large cruciform building, standing on the higher ground east from the Dorking road ; owing to the growth of trees around, it is not so conspicuous a figure in the landscape as it used to be.

The building has been restored at different times during the nineteenth century, and between 1820 and 1826 considerable alterations were made by the Rev. James Dallaway, a learned and enthusiastic antiquary who was vicar here for thirty years, after a wandering life, in the course of which he held appointments at Constantinople and elsewhere. His fondness for mystifications and antiquarian practical jokes has rendered it necessary for those who seek information to walk warily wherever he has been at work, and particularly so at Leatherhead.

There are some peculiarities in the construction of the church for which no proper explanation is forthcoming, though a local legend makes a question of right-of-way the determining factor ; the tower, nave, and chancel are of different dates, and each portion has a different axis. In the building there are portions dating from the twelfth, thirteenth, and fifteenth centuries, but each restoration has obscured some of the old work and also the previous alterations.

The three stone seats in the south wall of the chancel are supposed to have been provided for visiting canons from Ledes Priory in Kent, which obtained possession of the church after

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the fourteenth century ; there is a double squint, and the remains of what is called an anchorite's, or hermit's cell, in the north wall of the chancel ; possibly this may be part of the chapel belonging to the "Mansion" in the fifteenth century, or a watching chamber for the priest on duty, provided so that he might keep an eye on the valuables of the church, and also be ready if anyone sought sanctuary.

There are many memorials—one to Admiral James Wishart, a famous seaman under William of Orange and Queen Anne, who died in 1723 ; to Lieutenant-General H. Gore, 1739 ; Lieutenant-General Langton, 1714 ; Colonel Drinkwater Bethune, and other naval and military men, and people of local distinction.

A mural tablet records the death of Miss Cholmondeley by the overturning of a carriage near the Swan Inn, while she, Lady Sheffield, and the Princess of Wales were going to visit Mr. Lock at Norbury Park ; this occurred one hundred and six years ago, and the danger has been demonstrated several times since, but time moves so much more swiftly than local authorities that it is only now that they have decided to rectify the matter.

The well-known brass to Robert Gardyner is on a pillar in the south aisle where the manorial pew was formerly ; the inscription is interesting as a description of the man and his wife ; and also as a sample of the work of that poet of whom Spenser said—

"He had sung so long until quite hoarse he grew."

He had been a soldier, and published about seventy volumes in prose and verse, and flattered Queen Elizabeth with complimentary addresses until she gave him a pension of eighteenpence a day ; but the payments were irregular, and no doubt Thomas Church-

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yard was often glad to visit the Chief Serjeant of the Cellar ; the spelling is somewhat phonetic, but loses little by translation into modern English—

“Here friendly Robert Gardyner lies, well born of right good race,
Who served in court with credit still, in worthy realm and place.
Chief Serjeant of the Cellar long, where he did duty show,
With good regard to all degrees, as far as power might go,
He passed his youth in such good frame, he came to aged years;
And thereby purchased honest name, as by report appears.
A friend, where any cause he found, and courteous unto all,
Of merry mood and pleasant speech, however hap did fall
Four children for to furnish forth the table round he had
With sober wife, most matron like, to make a man full glad,
Prepared to die long ere his day, which argues great good mind.
And told us in the other world what hope he had to find,
We leave him where he looked to be ; our Lord receive his spirit,
With peace and rest in Abrams breast, where we at length may meet.”

The crest on the helmet above does not appear to be any part of the Gardyner arms.

A brass with a Latin inscription to Matilda Hamildon, wife of Thomas at Hull, showing a much worn figure in the attitude of prayer, is either of doubtful antiquity or the inscription has been re-cut. The font is old, and there is a chained book of Homilies given by Philip Dacre in 1708.

South from the church there are several small estates with good houses ; “Givons Grove” was part of the manor of Pach-
evesham, and was purchased from Benjamin Bond Hopkins in 1781 by Henry Crab Boulton, who erected the house and died there in 1828 ; it was afterwards sold to Robert Ladbroke, and is now the residence of H. P. Sturgis, Esq.

Vale Lodge was formerly the Rectory ; the churches of

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Leatherhead and Ashted at one time belonged to the Abbey of Colchester, but the title was disputed, and though the Abbot held these churches during the reigns of Edward I. and II., the Prior of Ledes obtained possession from Edward III., who confirmed the grant made by Pope Clement VI. A vicarage was then endowed, and the Priors retained the Rectory until the dissolution of the monasteries. In 1542 Henry VIII. granted the Rectory, and advowson, to the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, who still retain them, granting leases of the estate which are renewable every seven years; this has been held by a number of tenants. When Aubrey made his tour in Surrey, Admiral Wishart was the tenant; in 1780 Mr. Hague enlarged or rebuilt the house and laid out the grounds; it was afterwards held by Richard Norman, by John R. Whitefoord, and by Thomas Dickens; it is now the residence of Charles F. Leach, Esq.

“Downside” is only about twenty years old, but it is a house that will ripen and grow more beautiful with the passing of time; it is already famous for its fine gardens, which are of immense size and contrived for the various seasons; the rose garden is a bewildering mass of beautiful colour; the lily pond, the great herbaceous border, the lavender hedge, and fine hedges of clipped yew are all well known to horticulturists. It is the residence of Alfred Tate, Esq.

The origin and meaning of the name Leatherhead has been so much debated without convincing result that it may well be left alone. At the time of the Domesday Survey it was held by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, the principal manor being Pachevesham, the name Leret being only applied to the church and some forty acres of land, probably that attached to the Rectory. There were



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three separate estates in Pachevesham before the Norman Conquest, and the land of these was so mixed and intermingled with the manor of Thorncroft that even Manning and Bray gave up the attempt to disentangle them.

The present town is a cheerful, thriving little place, the beauty of its surroundings attracting many well-to-do residents ; and in time no doubt the houses will join to those of Ashted and Epsom, and so link up the chain of dwellings filtering all down the road from London. As a town it has grown, and still continues to extend, in a most haphazard manner ; one long street descending towards the river is the main road to Guildford ; all the others appear to be laid out with the view of providing as many awkward corners as possible. A few of the houses are old, but most of them are either new or rebuilt. I have drawn the view looking down towards the bridge, showing in the distance the wooded rising ground at Fetcham ; in the middle distance on the right is the "Swan," a well-known coaching inn since the seventeenth century, but the front has been rebuilt and a portico added in the nineteenth century. Nearly opposite this, but not showing in the drawing, is the oldest unspoiled house in the town ; this is timber framed, the spaces filled with the zigzag brickwork known as nogging, which superseded the earlier lath and plaster ; a fourteenth-century date is claimed for it, but I question if there is a timber house in Surrey of that century ; at any rate, this is not one ; two hundred years later would be nearer the mark.

Near the end of the bridge is the "Running Horse" tavern, which was an old house, but has practically been rebuilt in recent years, and, except in outward form, retains little of the house as it was until the middle of the nineteenth century.

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John Skelton's name is associated with it, one of his poems referring to Elynour Rummyng, who—

“Dwelt in Sothray
In a certain stede
Besyde Lederhede
She breweth nappy ale
And maketh thereof port sale.”

The ballad is coarse and humorous, but I am afraid the greater part of the tradition is one of the mystifications of Mr. Dallaway, who in his *Letheræum* says, “When the court of Henry VIII. was at Nonsuch, the laureate Skelton with other courtiers oftentimes resorted to Leatherhead for the diversion of fishing in the Mole, and were made welcome at the cabaret of Elynour Rummyng.”

A copy of this pamphlet was lent to me by Mr. Reginald Phillips, and it may be worth while to examine this fine example of jumbled history.

Skelton was known as a satirist in 1483, two years before the father of Henry VIII. ascended the throne; he had studied at Cambridge and Oxford, and was laureated at both, that is, he received a degree for rhetoric and poetry, which in those days was signified by the student being crowned with a wreath of laurel; there was no such office then as poet laureate as we understand it. He was appointed one of the tutors for the child Prince Henry, and was well thought of by Erasmus; entering the church in 1498, he became Rector of Diss when the future king was seven years old; whether he retained his office as tutor is not clear, but he continued his satires; one of these, “Colin Clout,” deals with the clergy in general; a later one, “Why come ye not to court,” deals with Wolsey in particular, and so exasperated that

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dignitary that Skelton had to seek refuge in the sanctuary of St. Peter at Westminster, where he remained until his death in 1529—ten years before Henry VIII. acquired the land on which Nonsuch was built.

There was a bridge here before 1358, as in that year a licence was granted to collect money for its repair; probably this was a wooden structure, wide enough for men and horses, cattle or wheeled vehicles using the ford alongside; it remained inconvenient and narrow until 1782, when, by an Act of Parliament, it was declared a county bridge and made twenty feet wider; probably it has been widened since, but for modern traffic it is still too narrow. It is picturesque, with its fourteen little arches spanning one of the most cheerful stretches of the Mole; the three streams rejoin and run briskly over a clear pebbly bed, a famous haunt of trout in bygone days, but now it is the old story—crude tar dressings on the roads carried by the surface drains into the river, and every living thing vanished from the waters; fishings that used to let from five to sixty pounds a year are not now worth a penny. In all my walking and working by the river banks below Dorking I have only seen some minnows and one half-pound trout; the presence of these shows that the condition of the water has improved, and restocking might be profitable; most of the stretches in this neighbourhood are so well protected by tangled growths of sedges and water weeds that neither poaching nor fair fishing could deplete the river, which in its fishless state is merely a melancholy drain. The large notice boards with which the river banks are garnished, warning all against unauthorised angling, are a satire, and a delusion for men who return to the town after the lapse of a few

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years. I have known these to steal across the dewy meadows in the grey dawn of a perfect morning to cast a fly amid the ripples where famous trout had lain in days of yore, and, thinking their skill had departed, return depressed in spirit to meet the jeers of those who knew better—to be told that their poaching was sheer vanity and their defiance of restrictions a waste of sleep.

On the west side of the bridge, and situated in Fetcham parish, though now a part of Leatherhead, there are one or two good eighteenth-century houses, and a tavern which occupies the site of a chapel founded in 1358 by Robert de Ledrede. When Salmon wrote, and in Manning and Bray's time, some portions of this were still visible. It was probably a votive chapel where wayfarers could return thanks after the passage of the river.

Six mills are mentioned in Fetcham parish at the Domesday Survey ; the one remaining occupies the site of one of these ; its mill pond is probably unique in having no water led into it, being fully supplied by springs rising either from the buried river or the high land on the south-west—possibly from both ; though the surface of the pond is high above the river here, it is eighteen feet below the level near Mickleham bridge.

I have drawn a view of the old bridge from a new structure of iron lower down, which carries the road leading to the railway stations, but does not materially assist the beauties of the landscape. The wooded slope below the church tower is the gardens of the "Mansion" and the "Lynk House."

A footpath by the riverside leads over some meadowland to Randalls Park. This estate, though in former centuries some-



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times described as Pachesham Parva (little), still retains the name of the man who held it after the Norman Conquest.

“Rannulf holds of the Bishop (Odo) one hide, and a virgate, which Leofric held of Harold in free tenancy, and could remove where he pleased ; two villeins there have half a carucate.” This hundred and seventy acres or so was valued at ten shillings, and was held by Rannulf’s descendants until near the end of the fifteenth century, but long before that time they had blossomed into gentry, as John Randulf in 1347 obtained a licence to have Divine service performed in his mansion. The family appears to have come to an end about the beginning of the sixteenth century, and the manor passed to John Agmondesham, who died in 1522. The estate was divided in 1557 among his three daughters, one of whom, Jane, was the wife of Thomas Sandes, who acquired the whole estate, but the manor passed to the Stydolfs. The estate remained with the Sandes family until 1684, when it passed by marriage to Charles Lechmere, who in 1716 conveyed Randalls to Joseph Ashton ; and by him it was sold four years afterwards to Arthur Moore of Fetcham, who died in 1734. Two years afterwards it was sold to General Thomas Paget, who died in Minorca in 1740, leaving one daughter, who married Sir Nicholas Bayly. They sold the estate in 1753 to Lord Carpenter, afterwards Earl of Tyrconnel, who, with his son, held it for thirty-five years ; it then passed to Lewis Montolieu and afterwards to Henry Casmajor, who in 1795 transferred the mansion house and paddock to Thomas Kingscote, and three farms to Thomas Cooper of Fetcham. The park and house were purchased in 1802 by Sir John Coghill, and by him sold in 1810 to Nathaniel Bland, who repurchased two of the farms.

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Randalls Park is now the property and residence of John Henderson, Esq.

While the estate was held by Lord Tyrconnel he abolished a road which passed near the house ; the two segments of this road remain at Randalls Farm, and at the farm occupied by Mr. Thompson on the Fetcham side, where the river was crossed by a ford ; he built the present dam lower down the river, and so flooded the ford and rendered it impassable. The old mansion stood close to the riverside and was pulled down in 1829, when the present house was built.

This riverside footpath, leading nowhere, is a puzzle to the townspeople, who imagine it ought to continue to the present river crossing, whereas it comes to an end where the old one was. The park now extends almost to the town, and contains some very fine old oaks.

The land east and north of Randalls Park was formerly part of Leatherhead Common, where in ancient times there was a Roman camp ; it is now open agricultural land. This is probably the land laid hold of by Benjamin Bond Hopkins in 1775, when the Leatherhead Vestry passed the following resolution—

“ It is the sense of this vestry that the Commons now ditching, as is apprehended, to enclose that part thereof, to acquaint Benj. Bond Hopkins, Esq., Lord of the Manor, that it is disagreeable to the parishioners of this parish for doing thereof.”

The remonstrance was in vain, and the ground was parcelled out into farms ; these in their turn are now giving way to small residential estates, and the name of the manor, abbreviated into Patsham, is now applied only to a piece of woodland and a few cottages on the Randalls estate.

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There are several fine modern houses at the north of the parish—"Woodlands Park," "Oak Lawn"—and a large school for young ladies now occupies the site of the kennels.

ASHTEAD

Ashtead village is about two miles north-east from Leatherhead, about three-quarters of a mile from the railway station and that piece of open ground by Ashtead woods where the black-thorn blossom in early spring is a sight to be remembered ; and where tens of thousands of children have a real day in the country, all the summer long, rambling for their allotted time among the bracken and gorse, and occasionally getting a glimpse of the "long tyled chickens," as they describe the pheasants of the neighbouring woods.

There is little of interest in the village, nearly all the houses having been rebuilt. I could not discover any trace of the house mentioned by Pepys in 1663, when, unable to procure a lodging at Epsom, he had to come here and content himself with "a little hole we could not stand upright in, and while supper was getting I walked up and down behind my cousin Pepys house that was, which I find comes little short of what I took it to be when I was a little boy, where I did eat mulberries, a thing I did not eat of again for many years." Inquiry of the villagers was useless, as apparently their history began with their own parents.

A footpath across some fields leads towards the gate of Ashtead Park, and the church, which stands a short distance away from the house, and is reached by what appears to a stranger as a side avenue.

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Surrounded by a pretty and well-kept churchyard, which occupies the site of a Roman camp, with the ditch still visible on the western side, and gay with the blossoms of the willow herb; the church has been restored several times since the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The Norman builders have used many of the Roman tiles, and these can still be seen in several places—in the east wall, in the turning of an arch on the north side, and in the tower, which is oblong in plan.

The interior of the building, though modernised, is fine in effect, and a number of the monuments are of considerable interest; many of these are to members of the Howard family, who for a long period were owners of the estate. One of grey and white marble to Lady Diana Fielding, who was a good friend to the village and founded almshouses there for eight poor widows in 1736. "That his gratitude . . . may stand recorded to after ages . . . Henry Bowes, Earl of Berkshire, has caused this monument to be erected 1733"; there is also a memorial to Thomas Howard, her husband; a tablet to Lady Dudley and Ward, daughter to Lady Diana; one to Henry Newdigate, second son of John Newdigate of Harefield; an elaborately carved monument to the pious memory of Mrs. Sarah Bond, another good friend to the poor of the parish; and a tablet to William, son of George Duncombe, born at Shalford, Rector of this parish, and Wotton, near Dorking. This was the rector on whom John Evelyn comments severely at Wotton in 1695, "who preached a florid discourse out of his notes and administered the Sacrament with very little reverence, leaving out many of the prayers and exhortation. This ought to be reformed."

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One brass is inscribed, "Under this stone lies Elizabeth, bereft of mortall lyfe, Christs faithful servant, Fromonds child and Bodleis gossip, March 1591"; and another, "Here lyeth the body of John Brown Esq. late serjeant of his Majesties woodyeard and Edith his late wife, which Edith deceased . . . July 1590." On the north wall there is a tablet to Dorothea Quinella, 1640.

The font is old; the elaborately carved roof with angel brackets is cedar, and was constructed about eighty years ago; the fine glass in the east window is fifteenth-century Flemish work, brought here from a convent at Herck, near Maestricht; in the vestry there are fine tables and a cupboard, which appear to be Dutch work of the sixteenth century.

The large park is finely wooded, but the house is not remarkable—one of these square, comfortable mansions erected about the beginning of the nineteenth century, three storeys in height, with lower side wings and a portico; it is said to have cost £100,000. The materials, being ugly grey brick with stone dressings, will never tone into beauty.

The house which preceded this was built about 1684 by Sir Robert Howard, Auditor to the Exchequer; Evelyn did not seem to think much of it—"not great, but the outhouses very convenient."

The manor was held from the Earl of Warren by the Montfort family during the reigns of Edward I. and II. In 1314 John de Montfort was killed at Bannockburn, and left no issue; he was succeeded by his brother Peter, whose descendants, male and female, were the owners, until the manor was transferred to Henry VIII. in exchange for other lands in Stafford and Derby.

In 1563 Queen Elizabeth granted the fee-simple to Henry

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Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, for £725, 8s. ; seven years later that nobleman settled the remainders to his son-in-law, the Duke of Norfolk, and his grandson, Philip, Earl of Surrey. The Duke was executed, and Philip was confined in the Tower until his death in 1595, and Ashtead reverted to the Crown.

When James I. came to the throne of England an Act was passed restoring to Thomas Howard, son of the late Earl of Arundel, the titles held by his father, and in the following year he was granted the Castle of Arundel, Ashtead, and other estates. Ashtead was held by his descendants until 1680, when it was sold to Sir Robert Howard, son of the first Earl of Berkshire, who was the man visited by Evelyn, and husband of Lady Diana, who married William Fielding after the death of Sir Robert.

The property passed to the Howards of Berkshire, and the heiress of that family married Richard Bagot, who assumed the name of Howard, and held Ashtead in right of his wife, and built the present house. Mary, their only daughter, married the Hon. Colonel F. G. Upton, and after her father died in 1818 she inherited the manor and her husband adopted the name of Howard. Ashtead Park is now the seat of Pantia Ralli, Esq., who is lord of the manor.

While Philip, Earl of Arundel, was confined in the Tower he must have retained the estate, and in 1582 sold the demesne lands—two thousand acres, half of which was furze and heath—to Lord Henry Seymour, who six years later conveyed them to John Ballet, a citizen of London ; five years later, they were transferred to Edward D'Arcy, a gentleman of the Queen's Privy Chamber ; but possibly these, or some part of them, were restored by King James.

ASHTEAD

Another manor known as Little Ashtead or Priors Farm was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Robert Newdigate in trust for Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, and it was held by the Newdigates until 1603; it was afterwards sold many times, but ultimately was leased by Colonel Howard. The manor house of this estate probably stood where is now Murray's Court House.

The Roman road, Ermyn Street, from Mickleham to near the grand stand on Epsom Downs, passes about half a mile south from the church; this is now a tree- and hedge-fringed lane, with tall grass, nettles, and "traveller's joy" encroaching on the path that goes straight forward over ridge and valley; near Thirty Acre Barn it is joined by an old drove road leading towards the bridge and fords at Leatherhead, and known as Ermyn's Way.

In some places this has been encroached upon, but in the main it is still the type of road used for pack-horses, and along which the sheep and cattle were driven slowly, picking their living as they went. All the wild flowers banished from the fields find a home here—scarlet poppies, corn cockle, marigolds, many clumps of a large blue scabious which is new to me, and a plant that looks like white "ladies' bed straw." Extremely quiet at all times, when the few men working in the fields have gone home, it seems entirely deserted of human kind, and for a short space as silent as the grave; but, almost as soon as the last stooping clay-coloured figure has topped the ridge, the hares are out in the fields, the rabbits lope cautiously towards the turnips, young thrushes are calmly searching for snails, the shrew-mouse squeaks, the grass-snake moves slowly across the path, and the world is full of little noises. The summer is too

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far spent for the singing of birds, but you may watch the glow-worm light his lamp and sprinkle all the hedges with diamonds as the dusk deepens, and far-away lights begin to twinkle in the gloom and the scented darkness of a summer night; the pathway is faintly visible, but everything else is a velvety visionary world where nothing is tangible. The main road, with its gas lamps and curbstones, is part of a more prosaic life, but the walking is easier, and not so mundane after all, for behind the red blinds of a tavern there is a fine voice lilting an old song with a rollicking chorus, and a fine confusion of sexes and similes—

“If I were a blackbird I’d whistle and sing,
And follow the vessel my true love sails in;
I’ll be up in top rigging, and there build my nest,
And lay all night long on *his* lily white breast.”

It is good that men should sing over their drop of ale, though for some reason it is discouraged by the authorities nowadays, who seem to think dominoes or “shove halfpenny” are more elevating amusements, and skittles a snare of the devil. The voice changed to a more melancholy strain, probably anticipating closing time—

“Then dig her grave both long and deep,
And cover her over with flow-ers so sweet,
And cover her over with earth so deep
And that’s the right way to forget her.”

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Headley is about two and a half miles east from Leather-head, the road passing by Highlands Farm, an early eighteenth-

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century house with large barns. Many fields are covered with a sombre crop of mint, from which there comes no fragrance except when it is being cut ; this used to be a Mitcham industry, but the encroachment of mean streets there have driven it away to this higher ground, where its cultivation and distillation is now a considerable business. Crossing the Roman road, a series of ridges and valleys continues through fine open country to Headley Court, the residence of Walter Cunliffe, Esq.—a large modern Elizabethan house with details of a seventeenth- and eighteenth-century character. A stretch of woodland known as Nower Wood occupies the rising ground opposite and continues to near the church ; the hamlet consists of a post office, a tavern, and a few cottages.

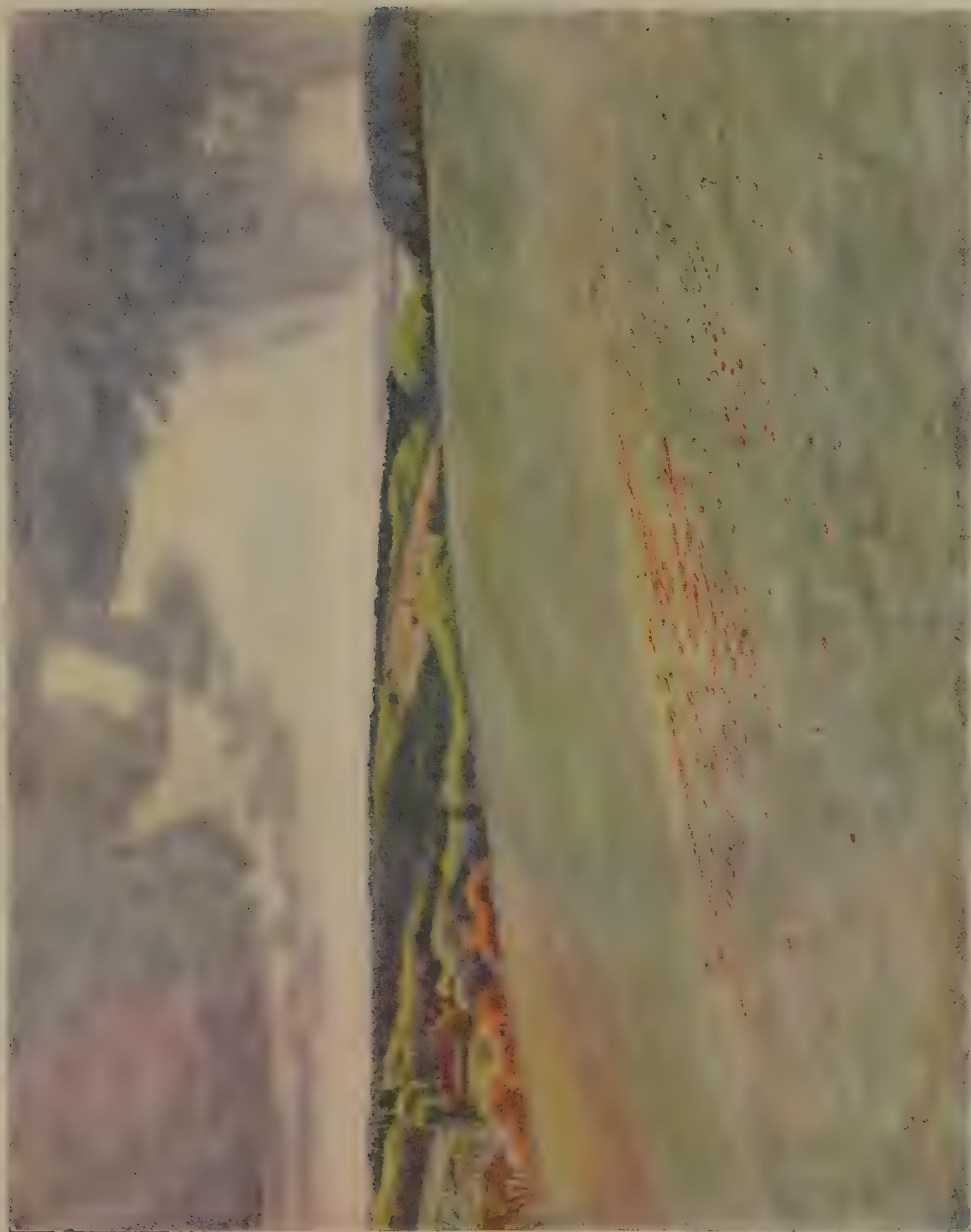
The church was entirely rebuilt in 1855, the tower and spire being added four years later. Some fragments of the old building have been made into a sort of grotto in the churchyard. The interior is neat, and there are a few monuments, but none of general interest—Simon Crane, 1771 ; Thomas and Elizabeth Drinkwater, 1765, 1785 ; Lady Frances Beresford ; Elizabeth and Ferdinand Faithful ; and one to John Edwin, 1753, with an inscription for which I hope he was not responsible, but doubt that he was. Part of it reads : “ After a life truly Christian, and a constant practice of all the virtues of humanity, having long survived and regretted his amiable wife and eldest daughter, and lived long enough to form his only surviving child Elizabeth, by his most excellent example, he by his will bequeathed to her a very ample fortune ; leaving a considerable residue to be distributed among the poor, to whom during his whole life he had been a most generous benefactor.”

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The Cock Tavern is the oldest house in the village, but has been much altered, and a fine chimney corner spoiled by modern additions ; the sign, with its reference to St. Peter, seems to show that it was once a church tavern.

Except the fine expanses of rolling downs covered with gorse and bracken there is little to interest the stranger. Formerly all the land was devoted to sheep-raising, and Aubrey notes that "the shepherds of these downs used a half-horn split lengthwise, nailed to the end of a long staff, with which they could hurl a stone a great distance and so keep the sheep within their bounds or from straggling into the corn." The employment of sheep dogs caused the custom to fall into disuse ; but if heredity counts for anything, some of the descendants of these shepherds ought to make their mark on the adjoining golf links.

The manor belonged to Goda, mother of Harold, and after the Conquest became vested in the Earls of Clare ; about the end of the twelfth century it was held by Gilbert de Tylers, but was forfeited in 1205 ; from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries it was held by the de Plescy family. The last male of these died childless in 1417, and the manor was divided into portions, one of these being owned by the Abbot of Westminster ; after the suppression of that monastery it was held by the King, and passed to Lord Windsor as part of the recompense paid by his majesty in lieu of the pleasant estate of Stanwell. It was afterwards held by Lady Ann Knyvett, and by her was conveyed to Sir Henry Weston of Sutton, son of her first husband, who was executed in 1536. In 1593 it passed to William Stydolf, and by the marriage of the widow of Sigismund Stydolf who died



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about 1715, to Thomas Edwin as a third husband, it came to that family and was held by them till 1784, when it was sold to Henry C. Boulton of Thorncroft.

High Ashurst is the residence of the Countess of Harrowby, lady of the manor ; this estate was conveyed in 1511 by William Assehurst to Robert Gaynesford ; from his son, Henry, to the Stydolfs ; and followed the descent of the Norbury estate until 1780, when it was purchased by William Boxall ; it was afterwards acquired by Andrew Strahan, the celebrated printer, who died here in 1831, when the property devolved on his nephew, who assumed the name of Strahan. The fine house, beautifully situated, was built about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and has been much altered since then.

From Tot Hill, south-west from Headley, there are large open views in several directions. Box Hill, Ranmore Common, and the distant land to the south, with the nearer stretch of Headley Heath and cornfields down the valley towards Mickleham : a grey rainy sky and one field of red wheat rippling from marone to russet and dull gold in contrast to the grey green of a field of oats beside it ; no chance of painting on that day, nor on another soon afterwards, and almost the same fortune pursued me when making the drawing at an earlier season in the year following.

One bridle road leads southward towards Juniper Hill, and another west, over Leatherhead Downs, with a wide horizon in front and the wayside fringed with banks of wild thyme, marjoram, and ladies' bedstraw ; crossing the Roman road again, the bridle path ceases at the gates of Cherkley Court ; beyond this there is a faintly defined path, which I left unexplored and

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turned down the avenue to the main road and back through a modern part of Leatherhead. These new streets, and a large Institution for the Blind occupy part of what was Leatherhead Common ; the last of this was enclosed in 1862, and there does not appear to be an inch of common land left in the parish ; the cricket-ground beyond the river is hired on lease, and that seems to be the only open space.

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Fetcham Park approaches the western portion of Leatherhead, and, as the house, church, and village are all together at the north-west corner of the enclosure, it makes little difference in distance whether they are approached from the Bookham road or the one near the mill pond, though the first of these is the prettier way.

According to tradition a battle was fought between Saxons and Danes in 851 on the ridge east from the park boundary, and some colour has been given to the legend by the discovery of several skeletons when foundations were being dug for a house there a few years ago. A lane turns northwards by the park wall, and from this the best view of the church is obtained, but entrance to it is only gained by the lodge gates ; it stands close to the house, and is still picturesque, though it has been restored several times during the nineteenth century.

The building is of many periods ; some parts of the south wall may be older than Norman times ; the square tower, at the east end of the south aisle, appears to date from the eleventh or twelfth century, and has been heightened at some time, diapered-

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pattern brickwork showing under the string course on the south side, and Roman bricks appear in all the older portions ; the roof is partly covered with Horsham slates. Internally there has been much alteration, but a good deal of old work is still visible ; the south aisle, with round columns and scalloped capitals, is Norman ; the pulpit is new, and behind it an old stairway leads up into the tower ; the screen is new, but of good design ; in the south wall of the chancel are three stone seats recessed into the wall, and a piscina ; in the north transept there are two lancet windows and an arch with dog-tooth mouldings ; there is a small portion of older work visible on the north side of the chancel arch ; the font, with an elaborate iron cover, is new.

A few of the monuments are of considerable interest, the most elaborate of these being the one to Henry Vincent ; still showing some traces of colour, the figure has a beard and moustache and wears a ruff ; the construction of the epitaph is decidedly ingenious—

“ Tombes speakes our jealousyes, and wrong the Dead :
Therefore these Lynes on thee must not be read
To begg thy Name a Memory, or owe
Thancks to a stone, for saying, Heere below
Doth lye a Vincent, whose just Prayse might tye
The best of all the Muse's progeny
To write his Worth. No, knowe that this is sett
But to upbrayde the world if it forgett
To speake his Vertues. If neglectful men
Give not in charge unto their Childeren
To weepe and imitate what we bemoan,
Vertue owes lesse to them than to this stone.

He dyed ye 2nd of May 1631 aged 85 yeares.”

On the north wall of the chancel there is a monument to Anthony

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Rous, Esq., decorated with a skeleton, an hour-glass, and a spear, with a Latin inscription (unreadable in the dim light) and the date 1631.

The nineteenth-century memorials include two to members of the Bolland family, who formerly owned the living. A marble tablet records a gift by the will of George Shiers, and a decree of Chancery, 1690, in a cause between Wm. Bamfield and Hugh Shortrudge giving a rent charge on lands at Welwyn, Hertfordshire, to be devoted to the poor, the wording of the bequest being almost identical with a similar one noted in Betchworth Church.

Fetcham Park is now a large house of red brick, with stone quoins, apparently rebuilt within the last fifty years, but some of the interior is older ; there is a fine ceiling in one of the rooms, with a coved cornice and a circular painting in a centre panel : the hall and staircase are decorated with mural paintings of classical subjects in monochrome ; and some of the rooms have delightful views over the well-timbered park and the country beyond.

The manors of Fetcham were held in dower by the widow of Edward the Confessor, and after her death in 1074, returned to the Crown. They were afterwards held by Bishop Odo, and after the confiscation of his estates passed to Richard de Tonbridge and his descendants, as of the Honour of Clare.

From them it was held by the D'Abernons, and afterwards in succession by the families of Crosyer, Norbury, Haleighwell, Bray, Lyfield, and Vincent. Sir Francis Vincent held the Stoke, Fetcham, and other estates about the middle of the seventeenth

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century—probably he was a son of Henry Vincent, whose tomb is in the church ; he was twice married ; by the first wife, Catherine Pitt, he had two sons, who held the Stoke estate in succession ; by his second wife, Elizabeth Vane, he had two sons also, the eldest of these, Thomas, receiving the estate of Fetcham ; following in his father's footsteps, he had two wives, but only one son, who died unmarried in 1685. The father died in 1700, and was buried at Fetcham.

Soon after this, part of the estate was sold by the Vincent family to Francis, Lord Effingham, and remained in the hands of his descendants until 1788, when it was sold to the trustees of James Lawrell of Eastwick Park, and soon afterwards was acquired by Thomas Hankey, who died in 1793. The property is still owned by his descendant, John B. Hankey, Esq., who is lord of the manor.

The house of the Vincents occupied the site of the present mansion, and that part of the estate was bought in 1718 by Arthur Moore, one of the directors of the South Sea Company who did not lose his money in that venture.

Finding the property rather small for the spread of his wings, he enlarged it by annexing the common fields, which he added to his park, enclosed it all round, and had his demesne laid out and planted with trees ; he died in 1734, leaving three sons ; the eldest, William Moore, succeeded to this estate, but, preferring to live at Polesden, which was also his property, he sold Fetcham to Thomas Revell, agent victualler at Gibraltar, whose daughter and heiress married George Warren, a descendant of one of the Earls of Warren and Surrey ; they had one daughter, who married Viscount Bulkeley. In 1788 Sir George Warren, in con-

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junction with his daughter and son-in-law, sold the estate to Thomas Richardson, who soon after parted with it to Thomas Hankey.

The three manors had been so broken up and absorbed in one another that their boundaries cannot be guessed at ; one of them, Canons Court, was held by the Prior of Merton from the twelfth century until the dissolution of the monasteries, and afterwards granted to Sir Anthony Browne. Mr. Manning believed that this was Great Bickney, a portion of Slyfield ; one farm retains the original name. The village of Fetcham is largely composed of good houses standing in large gardens, Bollands Park being the most important ; they are all of comparatively modern date ; one farmhouse at the north end is the oldest and most picturesque.

About a mile west from Fetcham there is a small village near the entrance gates of Eastwick Park ; this is now a large plain building of two storeys, with a four-pillared Doric portico. Formerly the seat of the Howards of Effingham, it passed from them in 1801 to James Lawrell, and from him eight years later to Louis Bazalgette. It was purchased from his executors in 1833 by David Barclay, a descendant from one of the two great founders of Quakerism. Each proprietor in the nineteenth century added to, or took something from, the old brick mansion of the Howards, until there does not appear to be any portion of it left.

The house is now the residence of William Keswick, Esq., who is lord of the manor.

From about 666 until the Reformation, the manor—which comprises nearly the whole parish of Great Bookham—was in the possession of Chertsey Abbey ; it was afterwards given by

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Henry VIII. to Bisham Abbey, but soon afterwards that was suppressed also, and the manor reverted to the Crown.

In 1551 it was granted to Lord William Howard, who, in 1553, was created by Queen Mary, Baron of Effingham; dying in 1572, he settled the manor on his third son, Edward, with remainder to his second son, William, who succeeded to it on the death of his brother; and his great grandson, Francis, succeeded to the estate, and the title of Baron Howard of Effingham, on the failure of issue of the eldest son of Charles, Earl of Nottingham and Baron of Effingham, the former title then becoming extinct.

Francis, Lord Effingham, was governor of Virginia in the reign of Charles II., and his tomb has already been noticed at Lingfield. His third son, Francis, ultimately succeeded to the title and estates, and was created Earl of Effingham by George II.; he died in 1743, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas, who was deputy Earl Marshal and Secretary of State; he married in 1744 Elizabeth Beckford, daughter of the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, and sister of William Beckford of Font-hill; he died in 1763, and the title passed to his sons, Thomas and Richard, in succession; Richard died in 1816, when the Earldom ceased, neither of these leaving any issue.

The title then reverted to Kenneth, eleventh Baron Howard, a descendant of Sir William Howard of Lingfield, who was created Earl of Effingham in 1837, and the title remains with his descendants.

Richard, the second brother, previously noticed, sold the Great Bookham estate in 1801 to James Lawrell, and from him it passed in 1809 to Louis Bazalgette.

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The church and village of Great Bookham are at the south-western corner of Eastwick Park ; there are a few old cottages, but nothing remarkable except a finely timbered old barn, which has been converted into a village hall. Fanny Burney lived here for a short time after her marriage, but I was unable to find the cottage where she watched with delight, while her husband pruned the hedges with his sabre ; it may still exist, but does not appear to be known to the villagers.

The church has lost much of its picturesque appearance, and the ivy no longer climbs to the top of the spire, as it did in by-gone days, being now confined strictly to the gables and the lower portion of the tower. There is no visible trace of the Saxon church which stood here ; probably, in an oak-growing country, this was a timber structure ; the oldest parts of the present building date from about the twelfth century.

The south arcade of the nave is similar to that at Fetcham ; the north arcade is a little later in date, owing, it is thought, to that portion having given way, and being rebuilt. The chancel is largely built of stone, the other portions of the church being flint, with stone quoins, tiles and bricks appearing here and there ; this portion, as appears from an inscription cut in the east wall, was built by John Rutherwyke, Abbot of Chertsey, in 1341 ; the porch was built rather later than the chancel, and formerly had a watching chamber in the upper storey, in which Sunday School was held early in the nineteenth century, and probably long before that it was used as a day school, in a fashion similar to the one recorded by John Evelyn at Wotton ; this chamber was demolished in 1845. The wooden portion of the tower is supposed to date from the sixteenth century ; the upright timbers are

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about twenty-four inches square. The font is a square block of Sussex marble on a more modern base ; the screen and pulpit are new ; probably the old screen has been cut down to make a rail for the Slyfield Chapel.

Near the altar there is a curious tombstone with faint traces of carving, and a series of square iron studs forming the semblance of a cross. These may be merely decorative, but I think they are more probably the dowells used to fix a recumbent figure or a carved cross upon the tomb ; it is believed to be the covering slab of the grave of Abbot Rutherwyk, who died in 1346 ; but it is not known for certain that he was buried here. The Slyfield brasses have often been described ; the earliest of these is a small one to Elizabeth Slyfield, 1433 ; the genealogical epitaph of Edmund Slyfield and his wife "Elyzabethe" remains, but the effigies of the man, five sons, and eleven daughters have disappeared since they were described by Mr. Manning in 1804 ; the brass figure of the wife, with a long pedigree in prose, remains.

In the rhyming inscription of thirty-four lines to Edmund Slyfield,

"A stout Esquier who allweys sett Godes feare before his eyes"

the lady occupies nearly as much space as the husband, besides having a long inscription on her own brass. This is unusual, and is probably owing to the brasses having been set up by their eldest son, Henry, whose effigy, with those of his wife, six sons, and four daughters, appears on another near by ; the date of his death is 1598, only six years after his father.

On the screen of the Slyfield Chapel a small inscription desires those who read to "pray for the soule of John Barmsdale and Marion his wyf 1481," and on the floor a large brass to

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Robert Shiers, Reader of the Inner Temple, 1668, showing him dressed in a long gown with an open book in his hand ; there are also sculptured stones to his wife and son. In the north aisle there is a large and elaborate monument in grey and white marble to the same three persons ; both men are shown wearing long hair, and the lady a curious frilled cap with a mantilla covering. The entries in the register referring to the excommunication of an earlier George Shiers and his wife in 1633 and 1634 probably refer to penalties for non-attendance at their parish church, similar to the instance noted at Nutfield.

There are many memorials to the Howards of Effingham, the earliest being one to Sir Francis in 1651 ; on the west wall there is a monument to Hugh Shortrudge, and a tablet recording his dealings with the Slyfield estate much in the same terms as those at Fetcham and Leatherhead.

An elaborate monument to Thomas Moore of Polesden shows that gallant colonel and paymaster in Roman costume ; near it, a tablet to his nephew and heir records the extinction of the family, 1746.

A bas-relief records the death of Cornet Francis Geary in the American War, 1776, and another with an outrageous weeping willow is the memorial to various members of the Andrews family ; there are several others to persons of local note.

The glass of two windows in the east end was placed there by Lady Mary Farquhar—one in 1858, in memory of her mother, the Duchess of Beaufort ; the other in memory of Lord Raglan, with a long and debatable inscription with reference to the conduct of affairs in the Crimea.

Little Bookham is about one and a quarter miles to the

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westward, a small straggling place where the old houses are giving place to new ones, and a few modern villas betoken the advance of the builder, but the village is still mainly an agricultural one.

In recent years the inhabitants of Great and Little Bookham have been the subject on which a wealthy, well-meaning, and zealous lady resident in the neighbourhood has tried experiments in total abstinence, buying every ale-house and tavern that came into the market, and, if possible, extinguishing the licence. These efforts I am told were purely vicarious, and am pleased to say they had little effect, except to make thirsty men walk a little farther for the refreshment they desired.

Nowadays we suffer from a plague of people who adopt a mission to correct the faults of their poorer neighbours by precept, and there is a danger that the free-born Englishman may become an extinct species in the country districts ; he is seldom allowed to keep a pig, but he is always compelled to assist in keeping a bevy of inspectors ; he is lectured, advised, and exhorted about everything he eats, drinks, or wears ; he becomes a decimal point in columns of statistics, and his ways of life are made the subject of inquiries by people in committee-rooms and drawing-rooms—people who are full of fads and theories, who have never trudged the dusty highways, or toiled in the sun-smitten fields, and most of the time do not know what they are talking about ; almost the only thing an old working man in the country can call his own is his rheumatism, and he is not always left in undisturbed possession of that.

The manor of Little Bookham was held in 1275 by Sir John Haunsard—thought to be a descendant of one Hansard, whose

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name appears in the Roll of Battle Abbey—from William de Braose ; so that the tenancy of Bookham Lodge by Mr. Hansard a few years ago was a return of the name to its old district after many centuries ; from the Braose family it devolved by marriage and descent to the Earl of Surrey, the commander at Flodden, and was ultimately settled on the Howards of Effingham ; from them by marriage it came to Lord Monson, one of the judges at the trial of Charles I., who after the Restoration was imprisoned for life in the Tower. This estate passed to Sir John Garrett, whose daughter and heiress married Benjamin Madox, who died in 1637, leaving two sons ; the youngest of these, an infant of five months, became his heir ; that gentleman was created a baronet in 1676 and died about 1710 ; the estate came into the possession of Edward Pollen, who had married his eldest daughter and heiress. Their descendant, Henry C. Willock Pollen, Esq., is now the lord of the manor.

The church stands in a secluded spot off the main road, and just outside the garden wall of the manor house, which is now a large brick building of the eighteenth-century type. It is a plain little building with a tile roof, a short shingled spire, and a south porch. I understand that it contains several memorials to the Pollen and Boileau families, but the door was locked, and no information available as to where the keys were kept, so that my examination had to be confined to the exterior ; a south aisle had existed at one time, and the round Norman pillars with scalloped capitals appear through the present wall, the spaces between having been built up ; a similar fate has befallen the round-headed north door.

There is a yew tree about eight feet in diameter and two

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large cedars in the churchyard. At the east end of the church there is a large tomb belonging to the Coote-Manningham family, one of the names recorded on the stone being that of Major-General Coote-Manningham, who died in 1809, "an early victim to the fatigues of the campaign in Spain."

Sir Benjamin Madox by his will in 1710 left certain lands and tenements in Allhallows Lane, London, for the uses of the parish—one half to the rector, the other half in four equal parts : for repairs to the church and the fence of the churchyard ; the use of the poor ; the repair of roads and bridges ; and to the parish clerk "for the better setting and singing of the psalms in the church and reading a portion of the donor's will on some Sunday between All Hallow tide and Christmas."

A path from the churchyard leads over the fields to Effingham Church ; and if the wayfarer, remembering Aubrey's tradition of the town that once possessed sixteen parish churches, expects much, these hopes are doomed to disappointment. The little village contains two old farmhouses, a few pretty cottages of ancient date, a good many new ones, and a church that has been restored in a remorseless fashion. Round the village there are several large modern mansions.

The land was held before the Conquest by the Abbey of Chertsey, but soon after came into possession of the Crown ; it was given by William 1. to Odo de Dammartin, and was sold by Alicia de Dammartin to Stephen de Gravesende ; in 1305 it was held by John Pikard, and by him it was mortgaged in 1309 to Henry de Guldeford, Marshal of the King's Household. Apparently it was broken up, and a portion belonged to Walter de Geddyngs when he died in 1312 ; by 1470 the whole manor

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was owned by Lawrence à Downe ; after his death, it was sold to John Legh, and from a descendant of his was purchased by Henry VIII.

In 1551 this, with the manor of Great Bookham, was granted by Edward VI. to Lord William Howard, afterwards created Baron of Effingham ; and the estate remained with his family until 1647, when Charles, fourth Earl of Nottingham, sold it to Thomas Turgis, a citizen of London ; he by will gave the manor to Thomas Urry, who died unmarried in 1776, devising the estate to his sister, and to his niece, who married Windsor Heneage and had two daughters ; one of them married Basil Fitzherbert, the other Fitzherbert Brockholes. The estate was sold in portions in 1832, and a large part was then purchased by Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece.

The manor of Effingham East Court was held by Richard de Tonbridge, and afterwards by his descendants, the Clares, one of whom, Gilbert de Clare, married Joan, daughter of Edward I. ; his son and heir, Gilbert, was killed at Bannockburn, and his estates were divided among his three sisters ; this manor fell to Margaret de Clare, wife of Piers Gaveston, and afterwards of Hugh de Audeley, created Earl of Gloucester in 1337 ; he died ten years later without male issue, and his title became extinct ; the estates descended to his daughter, Margaret, who married Ralph, Earl of Stafford ; the last of his descendants to hold them was Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, convicted of treason and beheaded in 1521, the manor being escheated to the Crown. Seven years later it was granted by Henry VIII. to John Bouchier, Lord Berners, for his lifetime ; he died in 1532, and the manor was granted to Henry Courteney, Marquis of Exeter, who was

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beheaded in 1540; Sir Anthony Browne was the next owner, and by his grandson it was sold in 1616 to Thomas Gray. From that time onward it continually changed hands until, about the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was bought by Miles Stringer. The trustees of the late Cæsar Czarnikow and the trustees of the late Colonel Parratt are now the lords of the manor.

Externally the church is new, and inside the only historic interest is in some of the memorials. Walter de Geddynges was buried in the chancel in 1312; but now all the older, and some of the modern, monuments have been removed to the tower, the walls of which are covered with them, the most of them being too high up for the inscriptions to be read. There is a brass to John à Legh—probably the man who sold the manor to Henry VIII.; a brass to John Cooke and Frances, his wife, 1627; one to John Agmondisham of Roughbarnes, 1508; and a series of small stones inscribed with initials, and dates ranging from 1587 to 1688—probably these have marked vaults under the floor of the church; a slab to Sir George Frederick Edmonstone, late Governor of the N.W. Provinces of India—this I take to be the man who enrolled “Edmonstone’s Horse,” still remembered in India; one to Charlotte Stringer; and one to Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece, whose lineage is proudly traced back on one side to Ap Rhese, Prince of South Wales in 1202; and on the other to Sir Benjamin Wright, “who defrayed the expense of the Embassy to Spain and of Charles the Second’s residence there in exile.” *Vanitas vanitatum!* and the clock in the tower ticks solemnly among them all. There is much fine modern marble work in the font, and in the chancel, where there are monuments

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to Cæsar Czarnikow, Miles Stringer, Lady Caroline Maxe, and to Fitzhardinge, sixth Earl of Berkeley—all of Effingham Hill. In the south transept there is the end of an old pew with a fleur-de-lis head, a square piscina ; and there is a holy-water basin in the wall by the south door ; the present tower was built in 1757 in place of the old steeple which had fallen down.

By the cross-roads at the south end of the village is the old “Blücher Inn,” now converted into stables, and not far from the entrance to the avenue, extending for a mile and a half towards Effingham Hill, a house standing near the ridge of the downs ; part of this may be the house erected about 1800 by Oliver de Lancy, barrack-master-general, who returned and settled here after the American War of Independence. Previous to that there does not appear to have been a house of any importance on Effingham Manor.

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The way towards East Horsley is a fine broad road, bordered on either side with fields of ripe corn, stretching up to the crest of the downs on one hand, and giving wide views to the north and west on the other ; the chimney-stack at Woking becomes once more a feature in the landscape, though seven miles of varied countryside lie in between ; during some parts of the day it is a lonely road ; two tramps reclining in the shade, until the heat of the day was past, appeared to be the only representatives of the human kind, and they were too comfortable and well fed to sit up and beg from a dusty pedestrian ; no doubt the whirr of a reaper in a distant field, where men toiled in the blazing sun, was

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a lullaby to their rest, while the flecks of sunlight filtering through their leafy screen provided them with a jewelled quilt of dancing colours that a king might envy.

The flint-built park wall of Horsley Towers bounds the road for more than a mile ; Roughbarns Manor is a little south from the road ; this is now a farm, and appears to have been entirely rebuilt.

The great house of Horsley Towers can be seen over the park wall, and at this distance it resembles a new and much glorified version of Losely ; it is a grand house, and when time has worn the sharp edges and reduced the raw colours to harmony, it will be picturesque ; even now the view, looking down the avenue of limes from the Bishop's gate to an inner one, with glimpses of the towers behind, is fine in effect, if one could forget the newness of it all.

The gateways are all ornate in design, and constructed of flint, brick, and variously coloured terra-cotta ; the design is pseudo-Norman, but the work is too coarse to carry the elaborate ornamentation with good effect. The tavern and all the houses in the village are variations of the same design ; soundly built, they are probably more comfortable dwellings than the old ones, but the sham antique construction has provided them with too many useless corners, and, in days of cheap glass, has made the windows less than half the size they ought to be.

Having seen one of these cottages, one can always tell the Earl of Lovelace's land ; they are similar all over the property.

The little church escaped the attentions of the building Earl ; and though Brayley wrote of it having recently undergone such thorough repair that it had been entirely divested of

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its ancient character, yet now it looks all venerable in comparison with the other buildings in the vicinity. A great horsechestnut tree occupies one corner of the churchyard, and the square tower, though covered with cement, shows traces of Saxon and Norman work ; the pulpit, screen, pews, and font are all new, but some of the tombs and brasses are of considerable interest. A large altar tomb with well-executed figures in alabaster is that of Thomas Cornewallis, "sometime pentioner and groom porter unto Queen Elizabeth of blessed memory," and the Lady Katherine, his wife, "one of ye daughters of Thomas, Lord Wriothsesley, Earl of Southampton, and Lord Chancellor of England" ; there is also an inscription to two sons, who are represented by little figures like dolls, one of them damaged ; the man is shown in plate-armour without a helmet, and wearing a collar of Jacobean type ; the lady wears a cap and a double ruff ; as might be expected from her parentage, she looks a somewhat grim and determined person. An elaborate monument records the virtues of James Ffox, grandson to Lady Vice Countess Lansborough, 1755 ; another near by is to Henry Hildeyard, 1674—he purchased this manor from Carew Raleigh. On the north wall there is a brass to a man and woman, six sons, and five daughters : "Pray for the sowls of John Snelling and Alys his wife . . . 1498 on whose sowles God have mercy" ; a brass on the north of the chancel arch shows a man with a peaked beard, without inscription ; on the north wall of the chancel is a finely worked brass of unusual design to John Bowthe, Bishop of Exeter ; this is in profile, showing him kneeling, dressed in his robes, wearing a mitre, and having a book in his hands, the crosier appearing as a scroll above his head.

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On the south wall of the nave there is a brass dated 1504 to Thomas Snelling, his wife, Jone, eight sons, and five daughters ; the inscription reads, "Of your charitie pray for ye soulis of Thomas Snelling, late of ye parish of East Horsley, Smith, and Jone his wiff . . . and for the soules of the faders and moders of the forsaid Thomas and Jone, wyth all there childreane, on whose sowlys Almighty Jhu have mercy. Amen." This inscription is curious from the wideness of its wishes, and also that it provides three different ways of spelling the plural of "soul."

In the early years of the eleventh century, when Canute was king, East Horsley belonged to Thored, supposed to have been a Dane, and by him it was given to the monastery of Christchurch, Canterbury ; it appears in the Domesday Survey among the possessions of the Archbishops, and was let to various tenants until 1539, when the monastery was suppressed. It remained with the Crown until 1558, when it was granted by Queen Mary to the monastery of Sheen. A year later Mary died ; the estate reverted to the Crown, and was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1561 to John White and John Agmondesham ; it became the property of the latter, whose son died without issue in 1598 ; after the death of his widow, the estate devolved on his sister Mary, wife of William Muschamp of Godalming. The Agmondesham family owned other estates in the fifteenth century, including part of the manor of Pacevesham (Leatherhead), and held Row or Roughbarnes from the Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury. The manor was held by Mrs. Muschamp until her death in 1620, when it descended to her son, Agmondesham Muschamp, who was knighted by James I. ; and, remembering that King's difficulty of speech, we may sympathise with the remark

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made by him at the ceremony, "By God, the Devil must have been his godfather." The manor remained with that family until 1701, when it was conveyed by Ambrose Muschamp to the widow of his brother, Frances, Viscountess Lanesborough.

Another estate, the Bishop's Manor, was held by the Bishops of Exeter from very early times ; in 1243 their right was disputed, and Bishop Brewer pleaded that the lands were held as belonging to the chaplaincy of Bosham in Sussex ; soon after this the manor was seized by the King, but was again returned to the Bishops, one of whom, Walter de Stapleton, in 1324 paid a fine for a licence to receive certain lands and houses at East Horsley from Roger de Berners.

Memorials to several of the Bishops of Exeter are mentioned by Aubrey, and by Manning and Bray, as existing in the church, but these have all vanished, except the brass to John Bowthe, which has been described ; that prelate retired to his house at East Horsley during the civil war, and died there in 1478.

In the time of Henry VIII. the manor was held by Dr. Harman, Bishop of Winchester, who appears to have stripped his see of many estates ; he demised this in 1536 to Henry Courteney, Marquis of Exeter ; but three years later that nobleman was attainted and his estates confiscated ; Bishop Harman had the lease to Courteney set aside, and during the reign of Edward VI. conveyed the fee-simple to Thomas Hawkins. It was afterwards sold to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, and by him was conveyed to Thomas Cornwallis, whose tomb is in the church ; at his wife's death she left this manor to her great-nephew Thomas, Earl of Southampton, who in 1629 conveyed it to Carew, son of Sir Walter Raleigh ; it afterwards passed to the Agmondeshams, Muschamps, and

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Viscountess Lanesborough, one of whose daughters married Henry Fox, and it remained with their family until 1777, when James Fox sold the estate to Robert Mackreth, a well-known swindler of his day, who had made much money as a waiter in a gambling house, and was afterwards knighted ; the estate was sold by him to Thomas Page of Cobham ; and after his death in 1781 it passed to Charles Dumbleton ; in 1784 it was purchased by William Currie, and about 1840 became the property of the Earl of Lovelace.

West Horsley Church and Place are only about half a mile away, but with two exceptions the ownership has been entirely different ; the list contains the names of many people who were famous in their own time and are not forgotten now.

Brixton held it from Edward the Confessor ; at the Domesday Survey it was held by Walter de Windsor ; there was then a church, fourteen villagers, five bordars, eight bondmen ; an Englishman held one hundred acres and one bordar, rated at twenty shillings. The haughty Norman surveyors held the Englishman in such contempt that the name of a considerable farmer was not worthy of record, while the lowest class were simply jotted down as natives.

Walter de Windsor or Fitz Other was governor of Windsor Castle ; one of his descendants, Hugh, gave two-thirds of the tithes to the Abbot of Chertsey. William de Windsor and his son Walter accompanied Richard 1. to Normandy in 1194, and it is supposed that William died while on that expedition, as his son was in possession during the year following. Early in the thirteenth century the manor was held by Hugh de Windsor, and the estate passed by the marriage of his daughter and heiress to Sir Ralph Berners, who was in possession of the whole estate

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when he died in 1297; it was held by his wife during her lifetime, but afterwards reverted to the Berners family, who owned lands in West Horsley, Send, Wisley, Ockley, Ockham, Effingham, and Chiddingfold. In 1334 John de Berners obtained a licence to have a chapel on his manor here; this was renewed the following year, and probably refers to a private chapel in his house; he died in 1341, and was succeeded by his son bearing the same name, who died in 1362, seized of the manor and advowson of West Horsley, held of the King, as of the Castle of Windsor, by the service of one knight's fee and six shillings and eightpence a year for the guard of that castle; and suit to the King's Hundred-Court of Harmeshatch—called Woking Hundred—value two shillings, in person or by five of his natives; and by paying to the heirs of Hugh de Windsor half a pound of cumin seed at Easter.

His son and heir, James de Berners, was one of the "favourites" of Richard II., and suffered in their downfall, described by Stow as "a lustie young man beheaded on Tower Hill"—there is a doubt whether this execution took place at Bristol where he was imprisoned, or in London, but none that it did take place. He is supposed to have been the father of Dame Julia Berners, the sport-loving Abbess of Sopwell, who wrote a book on fishing, hunting, hawking, and other amusements.

The estates of Sir James were forfeited, but were granted to his widow by Richard II. in 1393, and in 1400 they were granted by Henry IV. to his son, Sir Richard Berners; and settled by him on his wife, Philippa Dalyngruge; at her death the estate descended to Margery Berners, a daughter who married as a second husband Sir John Bouchier, who was summoned to

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Parliament in 1455 in right of his wife as Baron Berners ; this gentleman was Constable of Windsor Castle and Knight of the Garter ; he died in 1474, and was buried in the Chapel of the Holy Rood at Chertsey Abbey, having given to the monks a silver cross and other articles valued at £40. His eldest son, Sir Humphrey Bourchier, had been killed at the battle of Barnet in 1471, and the estate devolved on his grandson John, who inherited the title of Lord Berners. He sat in several Parliaments, was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer for life, and was Lieutenant-General of the town and marches of Calais ; besides all this, at the command of the King, he translated the *Chronicles of Froissart* into English, and published them in 1525, being rewarded for his learned labours by a grant of manors in Titsey, Effingham, Woldingham, and Ockham, these being part of the forfeited estates of the Duke of Buckingham ; he died at Calais in 1532, leaving two daughters ; one of these died without issue, the other, Joan, was the wife of Edward Knyvet, and became sole heiress ; but before her death, in 1561, all the Berners estates were in other hands.

In 1536 Courteney, Marquis of Exeter, obtained a licence to settle West Horsley, Ockham, and Effingham on his wife ; two years later both of them were attainted of high treason ; he was executed ; she was imprisoned ; and the estates reverted to the Crown. The next owner was Sir Anthony Browne, master of the horse to Henry VIII. ; he died in 1548, and the West Horsley estate became the property of his widow, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, “the fair Geraldine” of the Earl of Surrey’s poem—

“Hampton me taught to wish her first for mine ;
And Windsor, alas ! doth chase me from her sight.”

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She afterwards married Edward Fiennes, who became Earl of Lincoln, but survived him also ; at her death, some time after 1588, the manor descended to her son, Sir Anthony Browne, who died in 1592, leaving the estate to his grandson, at whose death it was sold to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, the adopted heir of his uncle, Sir Francis Carew, after whose death in 1607 he had assumed the name and arms of the Carews ; he died in 1643, and the estate passed to his nephew, Carew Raleigh, son of his sister Elizabeth and Sir Walter Raleigh.

Carew Raleigh was born in the Tower during his father's imprisonment there, and it must have been towards the end of the reign of James I. that he was presented to that monarch by the Earl of Pembroke ; the King remarked that " he appeared to him like his father's ghost," and the young man's patron appreciating possible measures being taken to lay that ghost, advised him to travel abroad, and he did not return to England until James had been gathered to his fathers. Hoping for better treatment from Charles I. he applied for restitution of his father's estate at Sherborne, but the King had already sold that to the Earl of Bristol, and coldly informed him that unless he would quit all right to that estate no bill of restoration would be passed ; at first Mr. Raleigh refused to do this, but, beguiled by many promises of advancement, he at length consented ; except that he was made a gentleman of the Privy Chamber the promises remained unfulfilled.

He married the widow of Sir Anthony Ashley, and settled down quietly at West Horsley, where he lived for many years ; several of his children were born there, and during the Commonwealth he was Member of Parliament for Godalming and for Guildford ; in 1659 he was appointed Governor of Jersey.

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After the Restoration, Charles II. wished to confer some personal honour upon him, but this he resolutely declined, and the King conferred the honour of knighthood on his eldest son, Walter ; but he died soon afterwards, and was buried in West Horsley Church in 1660, a brother and a baby sister being also buried there in the same year ; probably these events influenced Mr. Raleigh to sell the estate, which he did in 1665, to Sir Edward Nicholas.

Mr. Manning says that the parish register at West Horsley records the burial of Mr. Carew Raleigh in the vault belonging to the manor house in September 1680 ; it is an old tradition, and probably correct, that the head of his father, Sir Walter Raleigh, was buried along with him ; indeed, it was seen by William Nicholas in 1703 when his mother was being buried in the same place.

Apparently Lady Raleigh was unsuccessful in obtaining the body of her husband, which she wished to bury at Beddington, but received the head from the executioner, or whoever had to do with the removal of these ghastly relics, when they had been exposed for the allotted time ; generally they were thrown into the river, but in this instance, as in that of Sir Thomas More, they were handed to the relatives ; Lady Raleigh kept it all her lifetime, probably awaiting an opportunity to lay it in St. Margaret's with the body, but this never occurred, and in the end it was buried with her son.

Sir Edward Nicholas, who succeeded the Raleighs at West Horsley Place, had also some experience of the value of Stuart promises. He had been secretary to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, when Lord High Admiral ; after his assassination, he retained

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his office under commissioners, and became Secretary of State in 1640; he was a firm adherent to Charles I., and followed Charles II. into exile; at the Restoration he was again appointed Secretary of State, and held that office until 1663. The only reward for long and faithful service was the offer of a peerage, a cheap honour which he declined, and retired to West Horsley, where he spent his remaining years, dying in 1669. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who also had attended on Charles II. during his cloudy days, but honours did not fall any more thickly on him than they did on his father; he was made a Knight of the Bath, and appointed Clerk of the Council, an office which he retained until the days of Queen Anne; he died in 1704.

A careful, precise sort of man, he carried his clerkly habits into all the affairs of life, and jotted down expenses, and memoranda, into many small books; one of these entries recalls the great storm of November 1703, which destroyed the Eddystone Lighthouse and spread death and devastation over southern England.

“*November 26.* This night was the dreadful storm and tempest wherein my deare wife was killed in our bed by the fall of the chimney, and I was wonderfully preserved by God’s Providence. Vae! vae! vae! A little after three on Saturday morning this sad affliction befell me.” Penelope Lady Nicholas was a daughter of the Earl of Northampton; her husband was then eighty years of age, and she rather older. They left three sons, to all of whom the estate descended in turn. None of them had any children, the last brother, William, dying a bachelor in 1749, at the age of eighty-two; he left the estate to a relative who had become poor, Henry Weston, a member of the Albury



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branch of that family ; a man who was so extremely well liked by his neighbours that two others of them left property to him ; Sir William Perkins of Chertsey made him his residuary legatee, and Captain Matthew Perkins also bequeathed to him a portion of his estate ; with the addition of West Horsley, he became a wealthy man, and, though he had seen seventy summers, went a-wooing and captured an heiress named Anne Copperthwaite, by whom he had a son and a daughter.

He formed a design for the rebuilding of West Horsley Place, and had plans prepared on a rather magnificent scale ; these he showed to the Duke of Marlborough, who looked at them and asked, " Pray, Mr. Weston, how old are you ? " The question brought him back to cold realities, and though some alterations were made on the house all thoughts of a new mansion were abandoned. The house is now the residence of his descendant, Henry Macgregor Weston, Esq., who is lord of the manor.

West Horsley Place is well seen from the Guildford road across a rough meadow ; probably the front was built by Carew Raleigh, who made many alterations in the interior. At the back there are still some timber-framed gables, and portions of the house erected by Sir Anthony Browne when the manor was granted to him by Henry VIII.

Brayley gives detailed descriptions of various alterations made by William Nicholas in 1730 ; one of the ceilings mentioned must have resembled in design and construction a ceiling still to be seen at Great Fosters.

The public pathway along the avenue, close past the house and across the fields, though disconnected in parts, is probably a portion of the road which formerly led straight to Ockham

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Church and the Portsmouth road. There are many fine beech and horse-chestnut trees near the house and in the grounds.

The church stands on the south side of the road a few hundred yards from the manor house ; it has been restored at least twice during the nineteenth century, and I found it entirely in the hands of the workmen being once more subjected to the same process : many of the pews removed, the pulpit lying on its side with carpenters busy at its renovation ; modern representatives of "Old Mortality" varnishing the marble and scumbling new colour into the lettering of the tombs in the Nicholas Chapel ; and a tall, deft-fingered sculptor replacing the broken portions of the recumbent figure on an ancient tomb, which is usually described as that of Roger de Berners, rector in the early part of the fourteenth century, or Radalphus de Berners, a priest in the time of Edward III. I am not convinced that the ascription is right in either instance. The figure has long hair, and there is no sign of tonsure ; the small effigies, one on each side of the head, and one at the feet, may represent angels ; but the four cusps on the canopy of Gothic tracery are carved to represent monkeys' heads, and these form no part of the Berners arms ; they are part of the Kildares' ; the tomb is older than the sixteenth century, but a question arises whether the canopy was not added, or restored, by Lady Browne. In the window above there is some old painted glass showing a bearded man in armour kneeling with folded hands. The inscription has been broken and rearranged, but the name Berner is visible. This is supposed to represent Sir James Berners, the knight who was beheaded. On the opposite wall there is a small bas-relief of the Nativity, which was found under the floor in 1810. In the Nicholas Chapel

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there are no memorials of the earlier owners of the manor ; if any such ever existed, they have been removed to make room for the present huge erections ; one of these is to Sir Edward Nicholas ; and another to John and Penelope Nicholas ; and there is an old oak chest, possibly dating from the thirteenth century, beside them.

Other monuments are to Susan Briscoe, daughter of Sir Randill Cranfield, 1636, and John Kendall, 1750. There are two small brasses in the floor. One near the centre of the nave is inscribed, *Hic jacet Henricus Harckham* ; another near the chancel steps I could not decipher in the dim light. There are traces of mural painting on the west wall ; the font, tub-shaped and supported by round shafts, probably dates from the early part of the thirteenth century ; and the west porch from the fifteenth ; one Nicholas tomb is outside in the churchyard ; but this, my second day here, was not suited to outdoor studies. All day long cold, high wind and torrents of rain, which sometimes slackened but never ceased ; workmen went away to dinner and came back dripping ; I remained in the church until late afternoon, when suddenly the rain ceased long enough to allow me to finish my drawing, and then began a fresh deluge again. The village contains a few picturesque cottages with wide-set timbers and curved struts and two good old farmhouses, but nothing else of note.

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Passing westward on the Guildford road the only house of importance is Hatchlands, the residence of Lord Rendel, who is lord of the manor ; this was erected on the site of the ancient

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manor house by Admiral Boscawen about 1751 "at the expense of the enemies of his country"; he died there in 1761, and it was sold by his widow,—a daughter of William Evelyn Glanville,—in 1770 to William B. Sumner, and remained with his descendants until it was acquired by the present owner. The house is a large, plain, two-storey building, with a three-windowed oriel projecting in the centre, but the gardens and park are fine. The earlier history of the manor is not of much interest; it was held by Chertsey Abbey from early times, and afterwards granted to Sir Anthony Browne, who sold it in a few years to Edward Carleton, who died here in 1582; from his descendants it passed to Sir Francis Aungier, Master of the Rolls in Ireland, and was held by his descendants until about 1680, when it was sold to Richard Heath, and by his son, Sir Richard Heath, about 1725, to Mr. Raymond, who became bankrupt; from his trustees it was purchased in 1749 by Admiral Boscawen.

East Clandon is a tiny village with a few old cottages dignified with the title of "The Square." The Home Farm is a large, square house of brick, with a good porch and an outside chimney, and near it the "Queen's Head" tavern is of similar construction, with a big centre chimney; both appear to date from the latter part of the seventeenth century. The church is of flint and chalk, with a shingled belfry and spire; it was founded in the thirteenth century, but only a few fragments of the older work remain after nineteenth-century restorations. The principal monuments are to the Sumners of Hatchlands.

The second rector was Roger de Lovekyn of Kyngeston, 1301, and another one of the rectors, who was buried in the chancel in 1629, was somewhat distinguished in his day.

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Thomas Goffe published sermons, composed funeral orations, and wrote plays ; most of his dramatic work deals with Turks, about whom the good man could have known very little, but his married life may have engendered the wish that he was one ; it is related that although he had professed himself an enemy of the female sex, he married the widow of his predecessor, " he was so overtopped by her, and the children of the former husband, that his life was much shortened thereby ; he died at length in a manner heartbroken."

A mile of main road lies between this and West Clandon—Clandon Regis, as it used to be called—the land on the south side sloping up to the well-wooded skyline of Clandon and Merrow downs. There is a better way by a lane near the church, and a path across the fields, where the children are scouring the hedges in search of the unripe hazel-nuts, cracking them with their teeth and absorbing the bitter contents, oblivious of tooth and stomach troubles in the future.

There is nothing of note in the village, which straggles along the road outside the boundary of the park, except a few old cottages similar in type to those at West Horsley. The church is situated at the south end, near the gate of Clandon Park, and may be described as neat. There was a church here at the Domesday Survey, and there are still traces of Norman, thirteenth, and fourteenth-century work, but the whole building has been restored several times during the last two centuries ; probably the lower portion of the flint and stone tower is part of the ancient church ; it is surmounted by a louvre-boarded belfry and a small spire, and was in the hands of the workmen at the time of my visit ; the font is a square block of Petworth

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marble dating probably from the twelfth or thirteenth century, with a new base ; there is a series of elaborately carved pews for the use of the lord of the manor and his household ; one window is dedicated to the memory of Arthur George, third Earl of Onslow, and shields of arms relating to the family are in other windows. None of the memorials are of much interest except one tablet recording a nineteenth-century bread dole given by John Bone, senior, and his wife, Elizabeth, to poor widowers and widows, "twenty sixpenny loaves on Christmas day, and twenty more on the first Sunday after midsummer day ; the money to be paid out of the house he now lives in, that joins Clandon Park and lodge that was late at Rydes of Merrow, to be paid by his heirs and assigns forever." There was a similar dole from Stovell's lands distributed at Easter and Christmas.

Clandon Park has been the seat of the Onslow family since 1642, but the present house was built in 1731 from designs by Leoni, a Venetian architect who did much work in this country ; it is a large house of red brick, with string courses, cornices, and pilasters of stone, four storeys high, with a parapet which conceals the roof ; the internal construction and decorations are described as among the finest in Surrey ; but the exterior is only impressive from its great size.

The lands were held in the thirteenth century by William de Wintreshull, Matthew de Boville, and John At-Water ; at the beginning of the fourteenth century the manor was held by Matthew de Boville, whose daughter, Alice, married William de Weston of Albury, who died in 1309 ; the property remained with their descendants, and in 1354 the lands held by the At-Water family were also transferred to them. In the fifteenth

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century the manor was transferred by the marriage of Ann Weston to Thomas Slyfield of Slyfield House, and it remained with their family until 1638, when it was sold to George Duncombe of Shalford, one of whose descendants sold the property about 1710 to Sir Richard Onslow.

The land had been emparked by one of the Westons during the reign of Henry VIII., but the enclosure was removed long before its acquisition by Sir Richard Onslow, who restored to the state of a park that portion situated in Clandon parish ; it was further enlarged by George, first Earl of Onslow, in 1776, by the addition of nineteen acres of land in Merrow, in exchange for which he gave the parishioners a house and garden for the use of the poor ; he also added the lands of Temple Court Farm to the area, and erected the entrance lodge with the handsome iron gates at Merrow.

The Onslows were originally a Shropshire family, and first acquired lands in Surrey by the marriage of Richard Onslow (who was Solicitor - General and Speaker of the House of Commons in 1567) to the daughter and heiress of Richard Harding of Knowle, in the parish of Cranley. His grandson, Richard, succeeded to that estate in 1616 ; he obtained the honour of knighthood from James I. in 1624. In 1642 he bought Clandon Lodge and the lands attached to it from Sir Richard Weston ; in 1643 he was appointed one of the sequestrators of the estates held by the Royalists in Surrey—an office which brought him into conflict with George Wither, the poet, who essayed by his pen to make good his side of the quarrel, but only succeeded in getting fined £500 and having his pamphlet burned at Guildford and Kingston ; there does

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not seem to have been much virtue on either side. His grandson, Sir Richard, was chosen Speaker to the House of Commons in 1708 and raised to the peerage in 1716; the fortunes of the family have always been closely connected with parliamentary affairs and county administration.

There is a beautiful walk across Clandon Park to the village of Merrow, where the church has a few ancient features, but most of it has been rebuilt, and one portion reserved as a burial-place for the Onslow family; a tombstone to Sarah Battey, who died in 1799, aged one hundred and three years, has some curious rhyming doggerel inscribed on it. An old inn near the church has been modernised, but still retains many features of seventeenth-century work. The long extended views from Merrow and Albury downs at Newlands Corner, about a mile south-east from the church, are very fine, and probably better known than most of the others in the county.

The road northward by Clandon station passes near Dedeswell Manor; this is prettily situated, but is now a modern farm. The manor was formerly held by the Maubanke family, and passed to John de Deudeswell by marriage, and by marriage to the Westons in the fourteenth century, and from them in the same way in 1485 to the Welles, and again in the same way to the Popes.

There is nothing else of interest on the way to Burnt Common—cold wind and drenching rain, tarpaulin-covered reaping-machines and pools of muddy water among the half-cut grain in the silent fields, deserted even by the rooks. Somewhere thereabout I sought the shelter of a roadside tavern, cold, hungry, and wet; the only other customer was a bent old man, with an empty ale jug clasped in his knotted hand. "You be a tired man, guv'nor. I knows by the way you set

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down.” This was admitted. “Now, what you wants is a drop of old ale—they draws it very good here—finest thing in the world to warm a man. Yes! I’ll keep you company; ain’t much old ale comes my way now, seein’ I done for work, and only has my ole age pension.” Warmed by the drop of ale the old man chattered about the virtues of the fluid, and what people with less wisdom put in their insides. “Why, I’ve seen ’em drink leminade”—with a shudder at the recollection—“now, lemins is to oranges just as crabs is to apples—no good for nothin’; I ’member an old lady down Odiham way, where I was born, who cut a new set o’ teeth arter she was more’n eighty year old; ah! an’ ’twas a long job too. She fretted and grumped at their comin’ just as a child ’ad do, but w’ant she proud o’ them—spry old dame, and ’ad been good lookin’. I says to her, ‘Why, grandmer, you gets younger every day; you’ll soon begin to “take notice” again,’ and she laughed, shy like a girl ’ood.

“One ’ot summer day the squire’s ’ousekeeper gave her some leminade. She dranked it up, and—perhaps you won’t believe it—her new teeth were all melted away, clean gone; old lady took it so much to heart she went ’ome to her bed, and was carried to the churchyard in less’n three weeks.”

The rain had ceased; I said, “That’s a tragic story, dad—good-night,” and took the muddy road by Guileshill Farm towards Ockham.

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The history of this manor is remarkable from the number of violent deaths among its owners; the first of these after the Conquest was Richard Fitz Gilbert, slain in Wales about 1100;

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his grandson, Richard, was also killed in Wales in 1139; his descendant, Gilbert the Red, was in many battles; he commanded a division at Lewes in 1264, and the army at Evesham in the year following; as a second wife he married Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I. He died in 1295, and the manor was held by his widow until her death in 1307; their son, Gilbert, succeeded to the estates, and seven years later was killed at Bannockburn; leaving no issue, the inheritance was divided among his three sisters. This manor fell to the share of Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audeley, afterwards Earl of Gloucester; they left one daughter, who married Ralph, Earl of Stafford; their great-grandson was created Duke of Buckingham, and was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460. His son and heir having been killed in the battle of St. Albans in 1456, he was succeeded by his grandson, who was executed for conspiracy against Richard III. in 1484, and the estates confiscated, but restored with the title to his son, Edward, who was executed on Tower Hill in 1510; the estates reverted to the Crown.

Henry VIII. granted them for life to Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners, and after he died resumed possession and granted them to Edward Courteney, Marquis of Exeter, who with his wife was presently involved in a conspiracy which resulted in his execution and her imprisonment for life.

In 1561 Queen Elizabeth, in consideration of £437, 9s. 6d., granted Ockham to Anthony Crane and his wife, who five years later obtained a licence to dispose of the manor to John Vaughan and his wife, Lady Ann Knyvett. This lady had three husbands: first, Sir Francis Weston, executed in 1536 in connection with the Anne Boleyn episode; second, Henry Knyvett;

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third, John Vaughan. She conveyed the estate to trustees to be held for the benefit of her son by Sir Francis Weston.

In 1622 it was sold to Henry Weston, a member of another family, whose descendants held it till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when John Weston, then owner, was arrested, and his estates seized for debts owing to the Crown from his office of Receiver-General of Surrey.

When his son, Henry, came of age, in order to liberate his father, he joined with him in selling the property to Sir Peter King. This gentleman was the son of a tradesman in Exeter, and followed his father's business for some years until his abilities attracted the attention of his uncle, John Locke, who induced him to study law. He rose rapidly in his profession and became Recorder of London ; in 1714 he was appointed Chief Justice, and in 1725 became Lord Chancellor ; he died in 1731, leaving four sons, all of whom in turn succeeded to the title and estate within thirty-five years. Thomas, the fifth Lord, was succeeded by his son, Peter, in 1779 ; he died in 1793, and was followed by his son, Peter, who died in 1833 ; William, the eldest son, who heired the estates, married in 1835 Ada, the only daughter of Byron, the poet. The estate is now owned by the Earl of Lovelace, a member of the same family.

The old house was much altered by the Lord Chancellor, and appears to have been practically rebuilt since ; it is now a plain grey building with a projecting roof and a tower ; it shows little external beauty, but some of the apartments are described as fine.

The library and papers of John Locke were left by him to his nephew, and formed an important feature of the house, but these, I think, have recently been dispersed.

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Ockham Church is close to the back of the house, and is picturesque in itself and its surroundings ; patched, repaired, and weather-stained, it looks as if it had grown there by some process of nature.

Largely built of flint and stone, with a square tower of the same materials, it has an east window formed of seven lancets, which is more effective than many with elaborate tracery ; this appears to have been shortened from the bottom, and to have been made wider ; the entire roof has been raised at some time. The window is supposed to date from the thirteenth century and the tower from the fifteenth.

There are so many red and white rose trees wreathed round the gravestones in the churchyard that one is tempted to think that Aubrey must have meant to write Ockham instead of Ockley in his story of the graves of buried lovers.

Above the chancel arch there are traces of mural painting of floral design, but the groundwork is the same marone colour seen at Chaldon and Merstham.

In the north wall of the chancel there is a brass to Robert Kellet, and in the south wall a carved double piscina, a stone seat and an inscription to the memory of Ann, "late wife of Will Blake, citizen and joyner of London, 1729" ; and a door which has led to the rood loft. A circular pillar with a scalloped base is probably the old support of the font, which is now provided with a new one.

The seven-lancet window is filled with modern glass and has slender shafts of Sussex marble with sculptured bases and capitals and an architrave crowning each lancet.

North of the chancel, in what I take to be the Weston

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Chapel, there is a tabernacle niche with Gothic base and tracery. An inscription to Nicholas Bradshaw, rector in 1648, and Margaret, his wife, records with pride the issue of eighteen children, "fifteen of them grown up, eleven married, and the others well disposed"; a tablet to Henry Weston, 1638, and his wife, Saray, second daughter of Laurence Stoughton of Stoughton, knt.

In a window on the south side are three panels of Flemish glass, the centre one dated 1710, and bearing the inscription, "H. Nicolaes, Matt hias Hempel."

On the north wall there are tablets to the Hon. Wilhelmina Murray, daughter of Thomas King, 1795, and her husband, the Hon. George Murray, brother to His Grace, John, Duke of Athole, Vice-Admiral, 1797; and to Byron Noel, Viscount Ockham, eldest son of William, Earl of Lovelace, 1862.

A north chapel, railed off, contains the monuments of Lord Chancellor King, and Peter King 1833; the latter is a good bust on a pedestal, the former a great and elaborate structure with full-sized statues of man and wife, an urn, and many sculptured emblems; with a long and flattering inscription, which in sixteen lines records his virtues, honours, and history, and a brief notice of four lines to his wife, Anne, daughter of Richard Seys of Boverton, Glamorganshire; four decayed coronets hang above the entrance to the chapel, possibly these were used at the funerals. The roof is barrel vaulted and lined with wood, the north aisle flat pitched and divided into panels by cross ribs; the pulpit is new, and some of the pews middle-aged; a south door has been built up.

A lane leads out into the village, small, and scattered round a triangular piece of ground. One corner is known as Church End,

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another—where a small brook crosses the road—as Bridge End ; some of the cottages are pretty, and all have fine gardens, now gay with phloxes and late summer flowers.

By the side of the road towards Martyrs' Green the wheat and oats are being carried from some fields, while beside them at the same time they are cutting the first crop of hay ; a testimony to the mingled weather of the past summer. In the hedges there is travellers' joy and sprays of honeysuckle among the bramble blossom, hard heads, yarrow, and meadow-sweet blossom together by the wayside ; the haws are turning from green to red, and the lime trees show portions of russet and gold, while here and there the robin's song tells surely of approaching autumn days.

The farms and cottages have all been rebuilt, and at Martyrs' Green there is merely a handful of dwellings and a small public-house. There is little to notice on the road between this and Wisley Pond, which stretches among the fir trees for a quarter of a mile towards the Portsmouth road.

Woodlands cover all Ockham Common, and the greater part of Wisley Common, extending, with occasional breaks, over St. George's Hill to Weybridge. No wonder that the Ripley road used to be a favourite one in bygone days before the cyclists were driven away by the motor-cars ; it is one of the prettiest stretches of road in Surrey, and especially so in late summer when all the open spaces are covered with heather in bloom.

Three figures appeared on the skyline walking briskly along the crown of the road, side stepping to avoid the passing cars, and returning again to their former track ; sailors evidently ; one in a dungaree suit and a hard hat, the others in the nondescript

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costume of ship's firemen ashore. Many a hundred thousand sailors have tramped this road in the centuries that have gone, but one does not expect to meet them now ; they only wanted a little tobacco, and in answer to my question if they were out on a spree, "Not much of that, though we are sailor men and no square heads," each producing his discharge book—Archangel, Odessa, Buenos Ayres. "Couldn't get a ship in London river, and gone broke to the world, and now we're running down the milestones to Southampton. Ain't so bad when we got clear of the houses and can see 'em ; afore that we couldn't steer nohow, now we can see how we are gettin' on." They expected to make the trip in two days. I thought of the long miles by Godalming and over Hind Head, and asked them how they did for food, and found that their entire assets were fourpence half-penny, and the journey had to be done on that. Adding a trifle to their store I bade them good luck, and watched them stepping briskly southward before going my way.

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The woodlands and heather continue on both sides to the top of the hill, and down the other side towards Cobham. Traces of last year's fires were still to be seen, but most of the burnt trees had been removed, and those that had been scorched were growing green again. The road comes out into the open near Pains Hill, an estate owned in the days of George II. by Charles Hamilton, youngest son of the Duke of Abercorn, and a commissioner for the examination of public accounts—whatever that might be.

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During all the years of his ownership, and until the middle of the nineteenth century, Pains Hill was the shining example of landscape gardening. "The natural disposition of the ground was taken advantage of, and, with an artist's eye, a refined judgment strengthened by observations in foreign lands, he so distributed his plantations and their artificial accompaniments as both to create and command as rich a succession of picturesque and beautiful views as the situation could possibly afford." This laudable ambition was carried out by taking pictures,—chiefly by Claude Lorraine and Gaspar Poussin,—and reproducing them as nearly as possible in landscape, introducing temples and ruins as required; among those are mentioned a temple of Bacchus, partly of papier mâché; a Turkish tent; a medieval keep; Gothic ruins; a grotto; a Roman mausoleum with statues, and a real sarcophagus; and a hermitage; for the last of these a real hermit was required, but that species of industry was decayed in Georgian days, and hermits were hard to find; the conditions were so onerous that finally £700 was offered for a live specimen, who had to sleep on a mat, never use scissors on his hair, beard, or nails, never speak to the servant who brought his food, and generally to carry out the regulations proper to a hermit's life.

After much search a man was found who doubtless thought he was lazy enough for the post, and he undertook the duties; but by the end of three weeks he either tired of the job or else he was discovered sneaking off in the dark towards the public-house at Cobham; anyway, he was the only hermit.

The absurdity of the whole idea is only heightened when we know that Horace Walpole—who was bitten by the same

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craze—was delighted with it ; and Georgian poets, who seemed to hunt in couples with the landscape gardeners, wrote ponderous and rapturous poetry in praise.

Nowadays, when the timber is much better grown, the place is pretty and finely situated. Mr. Hamilton was not responsible for the present house ; that was built by Benjamin Bond Hopkins after he bought the estate about 1789 ; the earlier house was on a different site, and the present one was much altered in 1832 when owned by Mr. Cooper.

Benjamin Bond, who adopted the name of Hopkins and became the owner of several estates in Surrey and elsewhere, was a grandson of John Hopkins, known as the “Vulture” ; the grandfather is described as a man of humble origin and doubtful honesty, who became a merchant in London, and acquired immense wealth in 1720 during the South Sea Bubble. Pope said he left over £300,000 when he died in 1733, and the poet’s question in his “Essay on the Use of Riches”—

“What can they give? to dying Hopkins’ heirs?”

is pointed by the fact that though married three times he left no lawful male heirs ; he tried to leave his property so that none of it should be inherited until the second generation afterwards ; and when Benjamin Bond received his share he was an attorney’s clerk in the city ; he did not live a great while to enjoy his inheritance, dying in 1794, aged forty-eight.

The next owner of Pains Hill was Colonel Luttrell, the opponent of John Wilkes in the Middlesex election of 1768,—he afterwards became the second Earl of Carhampton. During his tenure more poetry was tabulated at Pains Hill, when he

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planted an oak in honour of the Duke of Wellington on an island, and inscribed his sentiments on a stone tablet near by.

It is now the residence of Charles Combe, Esq.

The bridge across the Mole at the foot of Pains Hill is said to have been first built by Maud of Scotland, wife of Henry I., early in the twelfth century ; for the benefit of the soul of one of her maidens who was drowned in crossing the ford, the Queen assigned the rents of a piece of land in Cobham, held by the Abbot of Chertsey, for the maintenance of one-half of the bridge ; and Humphrey de Bohun, lord of the manor of Walton, made similar provision for the other half. The bridge was kept in repair by the lords of the manors of Cobham and Walton until near the end of the eighteenth century, when the increase of traffic made a better structure necessary. The new one was to be a county bridge, and the lords gave £400 towards its erection, with permission to dig for sand and clay to make bricks ; it was begun in 1782.

Cobham consists of several villages, each group of houses thinning off, and beginning again along a crooked road for over two miles ; that near the bridge at the west end is Street Cobham, a wide street, some old houses, elm trees, and a large inn, which in coaching days was more famous than it is now. Its sign, the "White Lion," is the badge of the Earls of Surrey, so that it was probably originally built about the eleventh century.

East from this, Church Cobham can be reached by a path across the fields straight to the church gate. Embowered in foliage, with its scattered tile roofs, and church tower, the view from the fields is almost picturesque, but jotted down on paper it becomes detached spots of pretty colour. The large church has several ancient features, but has suffered restoration at least

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five times during the last century. The tower and south doorway with zigzag ornament is Norman ; the north chapel probably of thirteenth-century date. Most of the monuments are to persons of local note : the Hon. Agnes Hamilton, wife of Charles Hamilton of Pains Hill, 1772 ; William Henry Cooper of Pains Hill, 1840 ; Andrew Ramsay Karr, Chief of Surat, and afterwards Governor of Bombay, who died at Hatchford, 1799 ; General Felix Buckley, Governor of Pendennis Castle ; Admiral Graham Moore, 1843,—a brother of the soldier of Corunna. A very elaborate old monument of marble, with figures of Time, a woman in a shroud, skulls, angels' heads, and a skeleton, is to Ralph Coxe, citizen and silkman of London, who died in 1631, and Sarah, his wife, 1632, with a long and involved rhyming doggerel inscription—

“Sarah's true daughter, both by name and grace
Did Dorcas' bounty, Mary's choice embrace.”
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There is a small brass on the south of the chancel, fixed on a pillar so that both sides can be seen ; on one side is the figure of a man in armour, with a long beard and moustache ; the inscription has been lost, but it is said to represent James Sutton, “some tyme Bayle of this Lordeshyppe,” who died in 1530 ; the other side shows part of the figure of an ecclesiastic holding a chalice ; the metal has been used twice, and reveals how many brasses have been cut up and used again by unscrupulous engravers.

There are many recent memorials and much fine modern stained glass in the church. In the churchyard is the mausoleum of Harvey Christian Combe, the founder of the great brewery firm, Member of Parliament in 1796 and Lord Mayor in 1799 ;

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he was an eminent and honest man, but this ponderous tomb gives one a smothered feeling when they look at it.

By the lych-gate there is a much-restored building, partly of timber and partly of eighteenth-century brickwork. The doorway bears the inscription, "Ye old church stile house, Cobham, 1432, restored 1635." It was used by Miss Blunt as a home of rest for ladies, but is now, I think, in private hands. Towards the churchyard it has the shape of an old building with projecting storeys and two gables ; no doubt it is formed on an old house, but in the visible work I cannot see anything older than the seventeenth century.

Cobham Park, across the river, south from the church, is now the residence of Charles H. Combe, Esq. ; it is a modern house of stone, occupying the site of Downe Place, which took its name from the family who held it ; early in the eighteenth century it was owned by John Brydges, who rebuilt the house, and about 1750 sold it to General Ligonier, who held it till his death in 1770 ; he was succeeded by his nephew, who died twelve years later ; the property was then bought by the Earl of Carhampton, who resided there until he bought Pains Hill, when he disposed of it to Harvey Christian Combe, whose descendants still own it.

There are several small estates in the vicinity : Cobham Court occupies the site of the old manor house ; Knowle Hill is now a convalescent home ; Hatchford, formerly the residence of Andrew Ramsay Karr, is now in the possession of Sir Henry Samuelson ; Poynters, the residence of Mrs. Mount ; and Pyports, the residence of F. H. Cripps, Esq. ; none of these have much history attached to them ; Francis Mount, Esq., is lord of the manor.

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All the land in the vicinity was owned from early Saxon times by Chertsey Abbey, and after the suppression of that monastery it was held by the Crown until 1553, when Queen Mary granted the manor to George Bygley and his wife, Elizabeth ; they and their descendants, the Gavells, held it until the beginning of the eighteenth century ; after that time it was parcelled out and sold to different persons, including Viscountess Lanesborough, Robert Mackreth, and Thomas Page. The last of these bought Poynters, and converted it from a farmhouse into a residence ; he was the person who, in 1779, obtained an Act of Parliament to enclose the common fields ; his son afterwards extended the estate, and in 1793 a second Act was passed dividing and enclosing the commons, heaths, and waste grounds, exclusive of three hundred acres which were left open for the use of cottagers only, for the pasturage of their cattle and to furnish turf for fuel. I am afraid the villagers suffered from the presence of too many land-owners from town, and gentlemen having official positions under the Government. Thomas Page of Poynters was a friend of the Duke of York, and the influence and the experience of that nobleman in similar transactions no doubt made things easier for the enclosers.

The commons included Fairmile and most of the ground adjoining Stoke D'Abernon, Bookham, and Ockham ; much of it was excellent land, but there was no profit for the commoners from the transactions.

The village of Church Cobham is a thickly built cluster of old and new houses north from the church, the river sweeping round close to the road, where there is a small water-mill. Beyond this another village begins, and extends to the railway

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station ; a part of this, Cobham Tilt, is entirely new, though there is a rather picturesque water-mill on the south side of the river, near Downside Farm.

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East from the railway, the scattered houses of Stoke D'Abernon have nothing of interest until the entrance gate of the manor house is reached ; this is the only means of access to the church, which is situated at the end of the avenue, close to the house and invisible from the road. It has suffered so much from the restorers of the nineteenth century that the exterior is of little note.

The principal features of the interior are the tombs and brasses ; one of these, to Sir John D'Abernon, is the oldest brass in England and dates from about 1277. It is an immense thing and a wonderfully fine piece of engraving, measuring seven feet six inches long ; it represents the knight life size, in full chain armour, feet resting on a lion, with sword, lance, and shield. Another large brass represents his son or grandson, who died in 1327, under an engraved canopy, with sword and shield only ; the chain mail is different in pattern and is reinforced with plate armour on the arms and legs, the surcoat is much more highly decorated. The tomb of the third Sir John is shown by a marble slab from which all the shields have vanished except one.

There is a brass to Dame Anne Norbury, and the tomb of her husband, Sir John, whose "ould monument being by injury

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of time demolisht ” was replaced by the present one in 1633 by Sir Francis Vincent.

The chantry was built by Sir John Norbury about 1490, it is supposed, as a thank-offering for his preservation at Bosworth Field, and the tattered surcoat and helmet on the wall are said to be his ; the fireplace in this chapel proves, that before the Reformation, if a knight was powerful enough, he was able to provide for the comfort of his household when attending service.

There are several Vincent memorials : that of Sir Thomas, 1613, and his wife, Jane, 1619, has effigies of the knight and his lady ; the inscriptions to their memory are composed in a solemn stately measure resembling that on the Vincent monument at Fetcham ; both are given in full by Manning and by Aubrey ; the opening lines of the knight's epitaph are—

“Time that blotts out the actions of the Good
Is fitt with watchfull Care to be withstood
W^{ch} to prevent, is offered to our view,
No poets fantasie. Here's nought but true.”

Those of the lady begin—

“If to be wise, vertuous and good
Be ye prime ornaments of Noble blood
If these be Ensignes of a Royal minde
Thou 'add'st a Lustre to thy sex and kind.”

Another elaborate monument is to Sarah, Lady Vincent, who died in 1608. She was a daughter of Sir Amyas Paulet, the custodian of Mary, Queen of Scots, who offended Queen Elizabeth by his refusal to compass his captive's death without a warrant. The Latin inscription was paraphrased by the late Canon Philips, when rector here—

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“Here lie in dust
Five signal virtues
Strange that one sepulchre can hold them all!
More strange that a single Sara could exhibit them!
In one thing was our Sara less than Abraham's.—
Her days were few.
Yet in all else true Sara, she has reached, in Paradise
The bosom of a second Abraham
And all that of her was mortal
Rests, where she, as mortal, prayed.”

The chancel was built in the early part of the thirteenth century by one of the D'Abernons ; an iron bracket for the hour-glass remains in position ; the font is probably of the fifteenth century, and the church chest early thirteenth, this is supposed to be one of the chests ordered to be made and placed in the churches for the purpose of collecting money in aid of the Crusades ; there is a slit in the lid and a cavity below to receive the coins.

There is some ancient painted glass in the east window, and a watching chamber is indicated by a built-up doorway about twelve feet from the ground near the west end of the nave. The age of the original church is unknown ; formerly it was supposed to date from the ninth century, but the discovery of Roman mortar, plaster, and bricks in the fabric has led some authorities to suggest that the church was converted from a Roman temple.

The manor house is a large building of red brick with stone dressings ; the oldest parts visible do not seem earlier than the eighteenth century, and a large portion is quite new ; probably it was built on the site of the old dwelling by Sir Henry or Sir Francis Vincent. I understand that among its treasures are some

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fine works by George Morland, which have never passed from the family of the original owner, who was one of that painter's patrons.

The descent of the manor contains some interesting names. In the time of Edward the Confessor it was held by Brixii, whose name survives in Brixton ; it was then assessed at fifteen hundred acres. Soon after the Norman Conquest it came into the possession of the Dabernouns—as the name is spelled in the roll of Battle Abbey—and the manor remained with them until 1359, when William D'Abernon died, leaving one daughter aged eighteen ; she married Sir William Crosyer, and the land was held by their descendants until the death of the second Sir William in 1415, leaving no male heirs ; the widow held the manor until her death, when it passed to her daughter, Ann, who had married Sir Henry Norbury, a representative of the Sudeley family, who were descended from King Harold ; thus two families, whose ancestors fought against each other at Senlac, came into alliance more than four hundred years afterwards. The line always drifted towards the female side ; their daughter, Ann, heiress of the estate, and married Sir Richard Haleighwell, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Edmund Bray, nephew of Sir Reginald Bray of Shere ; he was one of those who accompanied Henry VIII. in the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 ; he died in 1539, and was buried at Chelsea, leaving one son and six daughters ; the son, John, Lord Bray, died in 1557, without issue, and after the death of the mother the estates were divided among the six daughters ; one of these, Frances, had Stoke D'Abernon and other estates for her share, and married Thomas Lyfield, by whom she left one daughter only, Jane, who married

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Thomas Vincent, who received the honour of knighthood from Queen Elizabeth at Stoke D'Abernon. Several other manors belonged to him, including Combe Nevill at Kingston and Canons Court at Fetcham, but he made Stoke D'Abernon the seat of his family.

Sir Thomas died in 1613, and Francis, his son, was one of the first unwilling knights created by James I. in 1603; he was a baronet in 1620 and knight of the shire for Surrey in 1625. His son, Anthony, was Sheriff in 1637, and suffered in fortune as a Loyalist during the Civil War; he died in 1642, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Francis, who was twice married and left the Stoke estate to his eldest son, Anthony, who had only one daughter; wishing the estates to descend with the title, he, in 1674, devised them to his next brother, Francis, charged with an annuity to his widow, and the sum of £5000 to his daughter. The manor continued with the descendants of his brother until 1820, when it was sold to Hugh Smith, and the manor house to Mr. Philips, this is now the residence of Colonel R. Bowen Buscarlet and Mrs. Philips, who is lady of the manor. The residence of Sir William Vincent is at D'Abernon Chase.

About half a mile farther on, the river Mole is crossed by a bridge, built in 1805 to take the place of an older wooden structure erected by Sir Francis Vincent; before that, the only passage was by a ford near the manor house; this is probably the shallow visible at some distance west from the present road; the old drove roads leading to it can still be traced on the west side of Bookham Common, and one part remains intact through Barnthorne Wood, near Effingham Junction.



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Until the death of Sir Francis Vincent in 1775 the wooden bridge was only opened during floods ; after that it became a county bridge and remained open until the present one was built.

A little way beyond is Slyfield House, only a shadow of its former self, standing close to the river Mole, a deep, slow stream, moving through a dense growth of water-loving plants ; there was formerly a mill here, but no trace of it is visible now.

The manor of Slyfield belonged to a family of that name long resident in Surrey and owning large estates ; this was their property in the fifteenth century ; in 1507 Thomas Slyfield conveyed the manors of Slyfield, West Clandon, Weston, and Paperworth to his son, Henry, and his descendants remained here until the seventeenth century ; the most eminent member of the family appears to have been Edmund Slyfield, who was Sheriff for Surrey in 1582. His biographical epitaph has been noticed at Great Bookham.

All the estates were sold by a later Edmund ; this was purchased by Henry Breton, and by him it was sold in 1614 to George Shiers ; the last male heir of his family died unmarried in 1685, leaving the estate to his mother, who died in 1700, having seven years before settled the remainder, with the farm of Tollimores and another estate in Hertfordshire, on Hugh Shortrudge, the rector of Fetcham.

Before her death, however, she made a will devising her estates for charitable purposes, with a considerable share to Exeter College, Oxford.

Dr. Shortrudge had this will set aside, and obtained possession of the property under the previous settlement. As

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recorded in Fetcham Church he, in 1715, had a deed enrolled in Chancery conveying the estates to trustees, to be applied for the benefit of Exeter College, the payment of gratuities to the vicars of Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Effingham, and Shalford for extra services, a portion to the poor of various parishes, and five shillings to the clerk of Great Bookham for cleaning the Shiers monuments.

Dr. Shortrudge then took up his residence at Slyfield, and died there in 1720. Since that time until recently, the estate has been occupied as a farm, and a large part of the old mansion was pulled down ; no tenant required such a house, or was able to keep it in repair.

I have drawn the south front, and, judging from its construction, this was probably built by George Shiers, who died in 1642. Some portions of the interior are much older than that, dating from the fifteenth century, but the bulk of the fine work—and there is a great deal of it—dates from somewhere near the beginning of the seventeenth century. The circular topped window shown in the drawing belongs to a large room with fine panelling and a very elaborate ceiling ornamented with cupids, wreaths, and masks in high relief.

In another room the ceiling is divided into circular panels, the centre one containing a figure generally spoken of as Queen Elizabeth ; it is not a flattering portrait if meant for her.

There are three fine ceilings in the house, all bold plaster-work, and in wonderful preservation ; the figures and masks are rather archaic, and the expression of some of the faces is really funny. Some of the panelling has suffered a little from the scraper of the modern joiner trying to obtain a polished surface,

STOKE D'ABERNON

and portions have had new mouldings inserted, but on the whole its condition is a testimony of the power of resistance to wear and tear by good sound oak. All the old rooms are floored with big, irregularly sized planks of oak. The main staircase is fine Jacobean work, heavy carved posts and rails, carved string boards, and fretwork panels instead of balusters, but differing from the one at Smallfield in having all the panels of the same design. It is guarded by a dog gate at the bottom, over which, according to popular tradition, a unique ghost, in the form of a blue donkey, jumps at midnight on certain dates, and vanishes at the top of the staircase. I have not been able to find anyone who has seen this apparition or to learn its signification, but I understand that it is still believed in.

One of the oldest portions of the original house is that now used as stables and lofts, and separated from the present dwelling ; the internal timbering and construction of these suggests that a fifteenth-century building has been encased in a flint and brick shell at some time in the seventeenth century, as shown by the hooded brickwork mouldings over the windows. Some of the garden and boundary walls are old work, and foundations of other parts are found for a considerable distance south-west of the present house, which is the property of Edward J. M. Gore, Esq.

A path beside the house continues across the fields towards Fetcham for about a mile and a half, reaching the main road near a newly built farm formerly known as the "barracks," from some vague tradition that soldiers were lodged there in olden times ; probably the path follows the track of what was once the main entrance to the house, and a guard may have been kept there to intercept unwanted visitors. The road to the south by Sheep

OXSHOTT, CLAYGATE, CHESSINGTON

Bell Farm, through the fine oak woods and tangled undergrowth of Bookham Common, is a longer one, but prettier than the footpath.

OXSHOTT, CLAYGATE, AND CHESSINGTON

Turning northward, there is a path from near the gate of Stoke D'Abernon manor house across the fields to Knowle Hill, and thence a lane leads eastward to the village of Oxshott, formerly a sequestered hamlet, but now containing many good new houses. It used to be reproached with having two public-houses and no church ; at the present day it has two of each.

One of the churches has no pretension to architecture, but the other, like that at Byfleet, is a credit to the village and the man who designed it.

The land formerly belonged to the Abbey of Waverley, with the exception of about forty acres, called the priory, which was owned by the prior of Newark.

The estate was afterwards owned by Thomas Lyfield, and at a later date became part of the Claremont property. Prince's Coverts and Ashted Woods extend for miles on the east and north of the village, while Esher, Oxshott, and Arbrook Commons form the boundary on the west.

The country round Claygate station is now undergoing development for building purposes ; the fields are cut up and labelled avenues, but fortunately in some parts an effort is being made to save the hedgerow trees.

There are no old buildings west from the railway, but one new chapel may be noted ; the façade of this is covered with a symbolic design of some sort worked in coloured tiles ; what it

CLAYGATE

means, I do not know, but its presence shows how far the district has advanced since pre-railway times. Then a balloonist descended one foggy day near a man at work in the fields and asked, "What place is this?" The labourer answered in trembling tones, "Claygate, an' it please you, God Almighty!"

The manor was held before the Conquest by the Abbot of Westminster, and after the suppression of the monasteries it was bought by David Vincent, who died in 1565; it was then purchased by George Evelyn, a nephew of the previous owner, and remained with the Evelyn family until it was purchased by Lord Chancellor King.

The old village is on the rising ground east from the railway, a scattered place built round two loops of road, with a church first erected about the middle of the nineteenth century.

From near the north end of the east loop a rather devious path can be found by the edge of a wood and over the hill to Chessington. A decayed avenue of oaks and old elms leads straight towards Chessington Hall and the church. The house is quite modern, but on the south side, near a field-path, there yet remains a ruinous summer house which is associated with Fanny Burney and Samuel Crisp; and the mulberry tree round which Sir Walter Scott says she danced on receiving good news of *Evelina* is said to be in existence.

From the inscription on the tomb of Sir John Evelyn of Godstone we learn that early in the seventeenth century the house and estate belonged to the Haynes family, his wife, Dame Thomasin, whom he married in 1618, being one of these.

Samuel Crisp was the best of many good friends possessed by

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Fanny Burney and her father ; it is said that he was a good critic, but not a good writer, and after the failure of his tragedy, *Virginia*, despite all Garrick's efforts, "he retired from the world to a solitary and long deserted mansion, built on a common in one of the wildest parts of Surrey. No road or even a sheep-walk connected his lonely dwelling with the abodes of men. The place of his retreat was strictly concealed from his old associates."

If Macaulay ever visited Chessington we can hardly help thinking that he was romancing when he wrote these words. One looks around on the quiet sunlit fields where they are carting the last of the wheat sheaves ; less than half a mile away is the old main road to which the now deserted avenue reaches down. Ewell is less than two miles eastward, and Epsom can be seen at the same distance—considerable places, even in the middle of the eighteenth century ; the two hundred feet or so of the elevation on which the house stands enables us to mark a fair number of farmsteads that certainly were in existence long before that ; the little church is close at hand, and a few old cottages are sprinkled along the lane towards Gilders Hall, now, and probably then, a comfortable farmhouse ; gently rolling land, pleasantly wooded ; and moreover when Samuel Crisp came here he took up his abode in the house of his friend, Christopher Hamilton, and lived there, with occasional visits to London, for thirty years until his death.

The lack of society complained of was more a question of quality, arising from the somewhat haughty air adopted by townsmen towards their country neighbours.

Mr. Crisp was a man of easy fortune, handsome, cultured,

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and esteemed by the greatest men of his time ; and when his play failed, he felt, and retained, an exaggerated sense of injury, though his interest in the doings of the town remained keen enough to appreciate the letters in which Fanny Burney described the doings of his former associates, and how London lived in his absence, and at the same time trained herself for the work that was to follow.

He was more than a father to her, and she came here to soothe his last hours, returning to London only to hear that Dr. Johnson was stricken with paralysis. Had these two lived a little longer Fanny Burney would never have been allowed to waste five years of her life as a lady-in-waiting.

The church has been so much restored that little old work is visible, except a curious series of six arches on the north side of the chancel ; these are all different in size and in curve, and give one the impression of samples of ancient work placed side by side ; the north wall, with lancet windows, may be twelfth-century work. The roof of the southern portion is of fir and pitch pine ; was it necessary to bring timber from Central America when there are so many good oaks growing all round ?

A few of the monuments are of interest : Thomas Hatton, 1746 ; three to members of the Dalrymple family ; a circular tablet to Elizabeth Penny, wife of Edward Penny of Chiswick, 1790, and a similar one to her husband, 1791, inscribed : " He was admired for his taste in polite arts, and beloved for his universal benevolence." One to Sarah Hamilton, 1797, aged ninety-two years—this is the maiden sister of Christopher Hamilton, with whom Mr. Crisp lived—and another inscribed—

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“In memory of SAMUEL CRISP, Esq., who died April 24, 1783, aged 76.

Reader, this cold and humble spot contains
The much lamented, much revered, remains
Of one, whose Wisdom, Learning, Taste and Sense,
Good humoured Wit, and wide Benevolence,
Chear'd and enlightened all this hamlet round,
Wherever Genius, Worth, or Want was found,
To few it is that bounteous heaven imparts
Such depth of Knowledge, and such taste in Arts,
Such Penetration and enchanting powers
Of brightening social and convivial hours,
Had he, through life, been blest by nature kind
With health robust of body and of mind ;
With skill to serve and charm mankind so great
In Arts, in Science, Letters, Church and State ;
His name the nations annals had enrolled
And virtues to remotest ages told.”

This was composed by Dr. Burney and specifies all the facts, but Samuel Crisp deserved better poetry than that upon his monument.

In the Domesday Survey there is a curious record of the land at Chessington being held by men of three different nationalities : “Milo Crispin” is undoubtedly Roman ; “Wigot,” Saxon ; and “Magno Swert,” Norse ; the latter is a proof—even if we ignore the large number of red-haired children in the county—that all the Danes were not killed.

The manor held by Milo Crispin came into the hands of the King, and was given by Henry III. to his brother, Richard, Earl of Cornwall.

Another manor held of Richard de Tonbridge was given by Robert de Chissendon to the convent of Boxley in Kent, in

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the twelfth century. In 1536 this, with other estates belonging to that convent, were leased by the King to William Saunder ; it afterwards had several owners until 1595, when William Harve conveyed it to William Haynes ; it remained with his family until 1603, when Robert Hatton, Recorder of Kingston, married Alice Haynes, and purchased the shares of the other members of the family. It was held by his descendants until 1742, when Thomas Hatton conveyed the manor to Edward Northey ; in 1797 it was sold by his son to Joseph H. Gosse of Epsom. The land is now held by several proprietors, Messrs. James and John Maud being the lords of the manor.

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There are two ways towards the east from Chessington ; one by a footpath across the fields to Ewell is pretty ; another is by the lane near the church to Park Farm, close past the steading, and a little way beyond a path to the east leads straight by field and coppice to Epsom Common ; much of the land on one side has been acquired by the London Asylums Board, and they have decorated the margin at short intervals with notice boards warning trespassers in peremptory language of the penalties awaiting them, and to add injury to insult, a body of men were engaged erecting an iron picket fence enclosing about a third of the path. I understand that legally the ditch outside a hedge belongs to the owner of the hedge ; but here they have claimed more than that, and turned a bridle-road into a narrow path.

This manor of Horton belonged in ancient days to the Abbey of Chertsey, and by one of the abbots it was granted,

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early in the fifteenth century, to John Merston and Rose, his wife. He enclosed a park, and in 1453 founded a chantry in Epsom Church, endowing it with lands of the value of twenty marks.

He was succeeded by his nephew, William, who died in 1512, leaving two daughters, one of whom married Nicholas Myn, and the estate remained with her descendants until 1626, when it was sold to George Mynn, whose daughter married Richard Evelyn, and the estate came into his possession; this lady survived her husband and children, and devised by will the estates of Horton and Woodcote to Charles Calvert, fourth Lord Baltimore, who was descended from George Mynn. The estate was held by his descendants for several generations; the seventh Lord Baltimore got into trouble about a Quaker milliner in 1768, and after the trial sold all his property here and lived abroad until his death at Naples in 1771. The further ownership is without interest.

Epsom Common is west from the town—a large space of ground extending to Ashted Woods and Common; towards Epsom a new church and clusters of new houses have been built on the fringe, but most of the surface is an open, delightful tract of gorse and bracken; there are several ponds, and flocks of geese still roam over the ground; on some portions the wild liquorice grows so profusely that at a distance it seems like heather in bloom.

The wells which brought fame to the town are situated in private grounds more than a mile from Epsom High Street and near the south side of the common.

First discovered by accident and used for outward application, the waters soon attained celebrity, and in less than three

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years from the first discovery the well was regulated and enclosed, and a shed provided to shelter sick persons ; by 1640 their fame had spread all over Europe. After the Restoration the popularity continued to increase, and new buildings were added by Mrs. Mynn or the nephew who succeeded her, the fashion continued until one Levingstone, an apothecary, opened rival wells somewhere near the town ; for a time these attracted most attention, but, faith-curing not being easily worked on a large variety of persons at the same time, the lack of efficacy in the waters of the new well caused it to fall into disrepute. To prevent comparison of the waters, the short-sighted quack obtained a lease of the old well and locked it up, thinking to compel visitors to patronise the newer discovery ; and in spite of the decay in his trade he kept it locked until his death in 1727.

By that time Epsom, as a watering-place, had almost ceased to exist ; during the period of furious speculation in the South Sea Company it revived, but more as a gambling place, and when that bubble burst it was again deserted.

After Levingstone's death, Mr. Parkhurst, the lord of the manor, reopened the old well, repaired and added to the buildings, and it became a resort for the gentry, who had breakfasts there, accompanied by music, dancing, and cards, every Monday in the summer ; but these spasmodic efforts soon died away, and though many attempts have been made to revive the popularity of the waters, even in recent years, they have been in vain. The gardener guided me to the one well that is now open ; this is covered by a pillar of brick with a stone coping, the water being brought up in a small bucket on a chain. Epsom-salts have not a pleasant flavour for many people, and I

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was surprised to find this water cool, soft, and palatable—much more so than any mineral water I have tasted ; that is not saying much, but it explained what I never could understand before—how Pepys and others managed to swallow the enormous quantities of the fluid mentioned by him ; it is really a seductive drink on a warm day, and the gardener told me of workmen consuming every day quite as large quantities as those given by Pepys. The manners and customs of fashionable mobs at the Wells in bygone days have often been described, and by none more graphically than by that diarist ; he is often quoted on the subject, but the most realistic pictures of these fashionable folks among the furze bushes must remain in the pages of the *Diary*, where those who wish may study them.

Epsom is now, except during the race-meetings, a quiet little town ; it still retains a flavour of horses, but on ordinary days there are probably more motor vehicles to be seen than animals. The wide High Street, round which most of the older dwellings are congregated, is as picturesque and has an older-fashioned air than any street in Surrey, though the old is rapidly being superseded by the new.

After the Restoration so great was the demand for accommodation by visitors that inns and lodgings rapidly increased ; in 1663, as noticed previously, Pepys could not find any room, and had to go to Ashted ; that, however, was during a race-meeting. I have drawn one of the inns which was built about 1690, it being then the last word in such construction, and may be profitably used as a comparison with similar places at the present day.

An internal courtyard was made, so that carriages could



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discharge their passengers in the building instead of in the street ; coaches and sedan chairs were provided by the proprietors for the use of their guests, and a large assembly room was opened for dancing or cards ; in the days of its decadence this was used for cock-fighting and kindred amusements ; but the final humiliation was added, when, hoping for better days owing to the advent of the railway, the building was named Waterloo House in honour of the London station.

The lower portion is now occupied by shops, and various internal alterations have been made, but the original arrangement of the place is quite discernible ; one of the coach entrances is visible in the drawing. The staircase is good, with a fine rail and turned balusters, straight and spiral alternately, but, contrary to popular belief, this is of the same date as the building, and never had anything to do with Nonsuch Palace.

There are still plenty of inns and taverns ; the former " Albion " coffee-house has been rebuilt ; the " Marquis of Granby " has a new front ; the " King's Head," associated with Restoration days, has been altered out of knowledge, though there are still portions which were there when it sheltered Charles II., while Lord Buckhurst and " Nelly," with Sir Charles Sedley, kept a merry house next door.

Part of the old inn is now a tea-house, where a small door was discovered in the intervening wall some years ago ; this was at once declared to be a secret door by which the King could gain admission to the next house. Considering the open " friendships " of the court of Charles II., the suggestion of anything so modest as a secret door is funny.

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The "Spread Eagle," though altered, is probably the oldest inn now existing in the town; the sign may be adapted from the arms of Sir Anthony Browne, Master of the Horse to Henry VIII. The "Amato" inn, formerly the "Hare and Hounds," is a picturesque clapboard house, dating probably from about the end of the seventeenth century.

Mr. Parkhurst, who was lord of the manor when the Wells were famous, made many improvements in the town, and planted trees along the roads. Only a few of these remain at the west end; the others were cut down and sold for timber by Sir Joseph Mawby, who became lord of the manor in 1798; the inhabitants objected to this spoliation, and he promised them assistance in the erection of a new market house, but it remained a promise.

The centre of the High Street was formerly occupied by a pond and a shelter for the watchmen; the house was pulled down in 1848 and the pond filled up six years later; an ornamental clock tower now occupies the site.

The old chapel in Church Street where Isaac Watts occasionally preached in the early part of the eighteenth century has been rebuilt; a little beyond this, the parish church stands back from the street. The square tower and spike spire is now the oldest portion of the building, which has undergone a gradual reconstruction.

The present scheme, which it is intended to extend to the whole structure, is ambitious, and to some extent impressive, with stone piers and a groined roof; the apparent heaviness will probably vanish when the work is complete. No one need regret the old building or the additions which had been made to it; all alike were tasteless and ugly.

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Some of the monuments have been retained ; one of these is to Richard Evelyn, but the year of his death inscribed on the stone differs from that given in Evelyn's *Diary* ; here it is 1669. John Evelyn, on 3rd March 1670, records an operation on his brother for "stone," and on the 21st of the same month he writes : " We all accompanied the corpse of my dear brother to Epsom Church. . . . A great number of friends and gentlemen of the county attended, about twenty coaches and six horses, and unnumberable people." There is also a monument to his widow Elizabeth who died in 1691.

There are a number of monuments by Flaxman—to John Henry Warre, his widow Mrs. Braithwaite Warre, John Braithwaite, Miss Eleanor Belfield, and the Rev. John Parkhurst ; one by Chantry to Susan, wife of John Ashley Warre. On the north wall there are tablets to Henry Rowe and his wife Elizabeth, 1759, 1756.

One monument records Robert Coke of Nonsuch, son of Clement Coke, the sixth son of the Right Hon. Sir Edward Coke, late Lord Chief Justice of England, 1681 ; and another with a long inscription in Latin, Robert Coke and his wife Theophila, 1543, 1553.

There is a modern tablet in memory of Francis Vernon Northey, mortally wounded in the battle of Ginghilova, Zululand, 1879.

The font is probably sixteenth-century work ; a large chest with incised carving and etched pictures no doubt has a history, but all trace of its origin seems to be lost now ; the subjects of the pictures are entirely secular, and the work appears to date from late in the sixteenth century. There is a chained copy of the " Vinegar " Bible in the church.

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There are many tombs and memorials of the past two centuries in the churchyard, but none of general interest.

Pit Place adjoins the church on the south side ; the house is said to have been largely built of materials from Nonsuch Palace, on the site of a farmhouse which formerly stood in the chalk-pit from which it takes its name ; if it is true that the lions on the gateway came from Nonsuch, the decorations of that palace have been absurdly overrated. The notorious Lord Lyttleton died here in 1779 ; there is a well-worn ghost story told in connection. It is now the residence of W. E. Bagshaw, Esq.

There are many other gentlemen's places in the immediate neighbourhood of Epsom, but as historic buildings none of them are particularly noteworthy.

Woodcote Park, the residence of Herbert Brooks, Esq., was erected by the sixth Lord Baltimore about 1750, in place of the house built by Richard Evelyn. Woodcote House was erected by Sir Edward Northey, Attorney-General to William III., Anne, and George I., but little, if any, of the original house remains ; it is now the residence of the Rev. Edward W. Northey. It is said that the rooks in the Temple Gardens were originally colonists introduced by Sir Edward Northey from his house here.

Durdans is now a modern house occupying the site of one enlarged by George, first Earl of Berkeley, with materials from Nonsuch, which he purchased from the Duchess of Cleveland when that house was demolished about 1671—the earlier house is mentioned by Evelyn and by Pepys ; it afterwards became the residence of the Earl of Guildford, and was occupied by Frederick, Prince of Wales about the middle of the eighteenth century. Some time afterwards the estate was purchased by Alderman

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Belchier, who pulled down the old house and built another, which was burned before it was finished. The present mansion was finished in 1764 and bought by Mr. Dalbiac ; it was afterwards owned by Mr. Dallowe, and by Mr. Blackman, who in 1819 sold it to Sir Gilbert Heathcote ; from his descendants it was purchased in 1874 by Lord Rosebery, who has since made many alterations. There are several others of lesser note, all with fine grounds and pleasant surroundings.

The manor of Epsom belonged to the Abbey of Chertsey before the Conquest, and probably the name is merely a corruption of Abbeysham. After the Reformation it was given by Henry VIII. to Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington and forfeited with the rest of his estates ; it was given by Queen Elizabeth to Edward D'Arcy, who ruined himself and his estate by dissolute life, and by him Epsom was sold to George Mynn of Lincoln's Inn whose daughter married Richard Evelyn ; and after his death she, by will, devised the estate in trust for life to her sister, Ann, with remainder to her nephew, John Lewknor, for his life, with remainder to any issue of his by any wife except Jane, his present one, and, after that, remainder to John Parkhurst. The estate devolved on Mr. Parkhurst about 1707, and was held by his descendants until 1770, when the manor was sold by auction to Sir Joseph Mawby ; by descent and marriage it came in 1819 to John Ivatt Briscoe, M.P. for East Surrey. Mrs. J. S. Strange is now the lady of the manor, and, as Epsom Court the manor house has long been separated ; the manor courts are held at the "King's Head."

Though Epsom is best known in connection with horse-racing, the town no longer depends on that, and many of its

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inhabitants would feel no great sorrow if the meetings ceased entirely ; this, however, is not likely to happen just yet, and twice each year the district is submerged by the tide of holiday makers from London and all parts of the country, and the motley multitude who assemble to prey upon them. These race-meetings, and especially the summer one, have come to be a part of the British Constitution, even the tediously grinding wheels of the parliamentary machine ceasing to work on some of the days, while staid legislators adorn themselves in giddy costumes and go forth to enjoy the picnic. Races of sorts have been held on these Downs since about the beginning of the seventeenth century, some of them being foot races between men or women.

Since 1730 or thereabouts there have been two meetings every year ; in the old days the roads were such that the journey from London occupied about twelve hours, and in wet weather it could not be made by wheeled vehicles in any reasonable time. Better roads brought greater crowds, and now railways and motor carriages have done much to abolish both the horse and the pedestrian traffic, which was a feature on the way and did so much for the roadside inns.

The principal race takes its name from Edward, the twelfth Earl of Derby, who established it in 1780 ; the "Oaks" was established by the same gentleman in 1779, and takes its name from the house occupied by him near Woodmansterne.

What would now be called the "option" for building a stand was secured by a group of shady speculators in 1828, and after the building was erected it took years of trouble to get matters straight ; this stand was rebuilt in 1886, and enlarged in 1890.

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Not only was there trouble about the stand itself, but also about the ground on which it is erected ; this was claimed by the family of Baron de Tessier as a part of the manor of Horton, specified in a deed of partition made in 1675, wherein the co-heiresses of George Mynn—Mrs. Evelyn and Lady Lewknor—recognise the right of the owner of Woodcote Park to a walk for four hundred sheep, the ground abutting upon the demesne lands of Epsom on the west and south, and the common downs of Epsom on the east ; apparently the land was reckoned to carry two sheep to the acre.

All the south-going streets of Epsom lead up to this green expanse of rolling land, and, when there are no races in prospect, it is often quite solitary. From the eastern end of the course by Tattenham corner, a wide wooded landscape of great beauty is spread out before you, and at evening, especially with a lowering sky, the huge bulk of the grand stand takes its place quite naturally, and, unlike most buildings of that sort, does not appear at all out of place in the scene ; from the top of the stand the views ought to be extremely fine.

Southward, the road leads by Walton Heath to Tadworth, a small village with a wide, open green in front. There is not much of interest except Tadworth Court, a house erected by Leonard Wessell in the eighteenth century, but much altered since ; it was for a time the home of Lord Russell of Killowen, and is now the residence of Charles D. Morton, Esq.

Kingswood may be described as a new district formed into a parish in 1838 ; the church then erected has been superseded by a newer one, opened in 1852 ; Kingswood Warren is a new house, and was the residence of Lord James of Hereford.

WOODMANSTERNE AND BANSTEAD

Turning northward, the main road from Reigate to Sutton passes Burgh Heath a roadside village, and near Nork Park, a mansion erected by Christopher Buckle on or near the site of an older house long held by the Buckle family, which was visited by John Evelyn in 1658, who mentions coins and urns found near it; the present house has been much altered; it was sold by a later Christopher Buckle in 1812 to Charles Perceval, second Baron Arden, and was afterwards owned by his descendant, the Earl of Egmont; it is now the property of Mrs. Colman.

WOODMANSTERNE AND BANSTEAD

Near this a road leads eastward following the edge of Banstead Wood for nearly a mile, and then northward to Woodmansterne, a pretty little village far away from the main roads. I had read descriptions of it, and these had led me to expect a compact little place near the ridge of the downs, with open country all round; it is nothing like that, only a scattered village with one or two large houses, and some old cottages here and there along the tree-fringed roads.

The little church, with a dumpy shingled tower and tiled roof, was much repaired in 1829, and rebuilt in 1876. I thought to trace some of the older members of the Lambert family, who owned land here for many centuries, from the tombs in the church, but the only inscriptions to them are of comparatively modern date, the oldest being to Jane, wife of William Lambert, who died in 1791; the others, five in number, are of the nineteenth century. One of these records the death at the battle of Ferozeshah in 1845 of Peter Colnett Lambert of the Bengal

WOODMANSTERNE AND BANSTEAD

Horse Artillery. There is a tablet to Joseph Casherd, rector, 1751, and a modern brass to Harry Berkeley James of the Oaks ; the font is a basin of grey marble on a stone shaft, with an old oak cover ; the pews are good oak of modern workmanship ; and a recess in the wall of the chancel may have either been for a tomb or a stone seat.

The manor house, close to the church, appears to have been entirely rebuilt ; it is now the property of Arthur Bryans, Esq. On the other side of the road there is a range of old flint and brick garden walls, enclosing a large space of ground with several cedars, two of these are about two hundred and fifty years old. Some of the old villagers told me that this was where the house of the Lamberts stood, but it was pulled down many years ago, leaving the space as it is now ; in their father's memory it was a fine house with three lodge gates.

This family do not appear to have held the manor, but their estate here must have been of considerable extent, and had passed in regular descent from the time of the Conquest.

The manor of Woodmansterne was held at the beginning of the twelfth century by Nigel de Mowbray, who gave the church to the Canons of St. Mary Overey in Southwark. The manor was afterwards held by William de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, who died in 1254, leaving seven daughters. Mabil, the eldest, wife of Fulk de Archiaco, held Woodmansterne till her death in 1304, when the succession was disputed, but went to Cicely, widow of John, Lord Beauchamp of Hacche, in Chipstead. Woodmansterne was transferred with the Chipstead property to several proprietors in succession until about 1550, when John Scott of Camberwell owned two-thirds, while Robert Harris and Richard

WOODMANSTERNE AND BANSTEAD

Elliot had certain interests ; in 1653 William Paynter, a descendant of Robert Harris, conveyed the manor and lands to Sir Edmund Bowyer ; they were held by his descendants, and subsequently passed through several hands, and the lordship became a matter of dispute ; some of the lands and the manor house were owned about 1850 by George Reid, Esq.

The Oaks is about a mile from the village, and took its name from a group of trees known as Lambert's oaks, which were enclosed in the grounds. Originally the house was leased from Mr. Lambert by a number of gentlemen associated as "The Hunters' Club" ; afterwards it came into the hands of Colonel Burgoyne, who enlarged the house and grounds, and added a large dining-room ; he sold the lease to his father-in-law, Edward, eleventh Earl of Derby, whose fêtes and parties made the house famous. Commenting on one of these fêtes, Horace Walpole wrote : " It will cost £5000 ; . . . he has bought all the orange trees round London, and the haycocks, I suppose, are to be made of straw-coloured satin " ; Colonel Burgoyne wrote a masque for the occasion, which was afterwards produced by Garrick at Drury Lane under the title of *The Maid of the Oaks*. Engravings were published showing the interiors of the ball and supper rooms.

After the death of his grandfather, in 1776, Lord Stanley succeeded to the title, kept a pack of staghounds at the Oaks, and entertained largely. Greville says : " Racing all the morning, an excellent dinner, and whist and blind hookey in the evening." In 1788 he enclosed the common fields, made a large plantation, enlarged the house, and added the brick towers ; after his death, in 1834, the estate was transferred to Sir Charles Grey, and by him it was sold in 1842 to Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones, who had

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married two sisters ; they altered the house and made it into two residences for themselves ; about thirty-five years afterwards it again changed hands, and until recently has been occupied by Mr. James ; it is now again for sale.

The house is entirely screened from the outer world, and the grounds are fine ; it is still much as it was left by the twelfth Earl of Derby, a good, solid, red-brick house, with towers added to give something of a baronial effect, and is heavily covered with creepers.

The road to the west meets that through Woodmansterne at Banstead, open agricultural land, and nothing of note on either of them. Banstead village contains a few old cottages, and there is a picturesque thatched barn near the church : the “ Woolpack ” inn is a reminder of the great sheep-raising industry that once existed here before the Downs were enclosed ; the land is poor in quality, and it is doubtful if much of it would not have been as profitably employed for sheep-grazing as it is under the plough.

The parish seems to have been poor and thinly populated at the Domesday Survey : there were eight villeins, fifteen cottars, and seven bondmen, with 1600 acres of arable land—rather more than a fourth of the whole area—one house in Southwark, value fifty pence, and a mansion in London held by Adam Fitz Hubert from the Bishop (of Bayeux) ; all the names mentioned as holders of land are Saxon. A mill valued twenty shillings is mentioned ; this has led to some controversy in the past, as there is no stream of water in the parish, and windmills were supposed to be unknown at that time in England ; but it is now generally agreed that these were known to, and may have been introduced by, the Normans.

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About 1100 the manor passed to Tirel de Maniers, an ancestor of the family of Manners, who gave the church to the priory of St. Mary Overey. The manor passed by marriage to Fitzpatrick, Earl of Salisbury, who bestowed it on his daughter when she married Nigel de Mowbray, who was succeeded by his son, William, one of the barons opposed to King John, and his estates were forfeited about 1217. Through the influence of Hubert de Burgh he recovered them, and gave that minister the manor of Banstead as a reward for his good offices.

After a time, Hubert de Burgh fell into disgrace, and his estate was forfeited, but this was recovered in the following year, 1233 ; he then retired to Banstead, and erected a castle at the east end of the churchyard. In 1274 his son, John de Burgh, transferred the fee-simple of this and other manors to King Edward 1., receiving in lieu a grant for life of the custody of the Tower of London, the Castle of Colchester, and the Hundred of Tandridge. This appears a profitable exchange, as the Hundred of Tandridge included all the land from Tatsfield to Blechingley, and south to the Sussex boundary.

Banstead was vested in the Crown from that time till the days of Henry VIII., though it was granted to various royal consorts, including Margaret, the second wife of Edward 1., and Philippa, wife of Edward III. Henry VIII. gave it to Katherine of Arragon before he married her ; she leased the estate to Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington, and Henry VIII. afterwards made him a present of it. Sir Nicholas was executed on Tower Hill in 1539, and Banstead returned to the Crown, but was restored by Queen Mary to his son, Sir Francis ; it afterwards descended with the Beddington property until 1762, when it was sold to

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Rowland Frye, and devolved on his grand-niece, Mrs. Spencer. Lady Lavinia Bickersteth is now the lady of the manor of Banstead.

The manor of South Tadworth was owned by Merton Priory, and after the dissolution vested in the Crown. In 1554 Edward Hesenden obtained a grant of the manor to himself and his heirs. About the end of the seventeenth century it was owned by Leonard Wessell, who built Tadworth Court about 1700; the manor was afterwards held by John Fleetwood, and his son, who died in 1752. In 1756 it was bought by William Mabbot; after the death of his widow, in 1772, the property was sold to Sir Henry Harpen, who, four years afterwards, sold it to Robert Hudson; his descendants held it for many years before it passed to Lord Russell.

The manors of North Tadworth, Preston, and Burgh are now held by Mrs. Colman; the manor of Burgh early in the thirteenth century was held by John de Bures, and his descendants retained some claim to it until 1411, when it was seized and sold by the creditors of John de Bures. In 1484 it came into the possession of Richard Merland, who also owned the manor of Preston, and the manors remained with his descendants until 1614, when they were sold to Christopher Buckle; and by his descendants they were retained for many years; one of them was Admiral Buckle, a famous seaman, who died at Banstead in 1784. The manor of Little Burgh was held from the time of Henry VIII. to that of Elizabeth by the Coverts; it afterwards was acquired by Christopher Buckle.

The manor of Perrotts has been owned by the Lambert family since the fifteenth century; D. H. Lambert is now lord of the manor.

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The church has a square tower with a slender spire, walls of flint with stone quoins, tile-covered roof with dormer windows ; there has been much restoration, but portions of twelfth- and thirteenth-century work are still visible ; part of the roof is old timber ; the font and pews are all new, and were decorated with flowers and vegetables for the harvest festival.

There are many mural tablets and monuments in the church, and a large number in the base of the tower ; several of these are to members of the Lambert family,—a branch of that noticed at Woodmansterne and Chaldon,—many of them appear to have sought fortune in London. Nicholas, son of Daniel Lambert of this parish, is described as a citizen and vintner, 1755 ; his wife, Elizabeth Carpenter, daughter of a citizen and vintner, 1746 ; and their children, one of whom married John Hodgson, citizen and apothecary, “who also lyes near them” ; Daniel, son of Nicholas Lambert of the parish of St. Dunstons in the west, merchant, 1768 ; and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Edward Lambert of Bermondsey, wool-stapler, 1768, and their children.

An elaborate monument to Sir Daniel Lambert, Lord Mayor and Member of Parliament for the city, 1741 ; and Mary, his wife, daughter of John Wilmot, citizen and haberdasher ; with a long eulogy on the Lord Mayor and a brief notice of his wife. There are also tablets or grave-slabs to several Wilmots, Lamberts, and others connected by marriage ; evidently this family had a strong homing instinct, returning one by one from the city, and bringing husbands and wives to be laid at rest together in the country churchyard. There is a monument to Sir Edward Howarth, 1827, Commander of the Artillery at Talavera ; and several tablets to members of the Motteux family of Banstead

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Place ; one of these, John Motteux, who died in 1843, was the owner of Sandringham Hall before it was acquired for the late King Edward. There is also a modern memorial to Ernest Goodman, first secretary of the committee for the survey of the memorials of greater London, who died at Banstead in 1906.

There are now many new houses at the west end of the village, and near the railway station a fragment of the open downs, with Sutton in the distance—the new houses almost beautiful in the warm haze of the evening ; but no haze can glorify the sentinel towers of that ring of asylums which studs the country from Chessington to Chelsham.

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Ewell lies about two miles north-west from Banstead station—pleasant, open country sloping slowly from the downs. There is a fringe of new buildings all round the village, but in the centre there are still many picturesque old houses.

The group which I have drawn is said to have been an inn, and though the timbering of the front is now concealed by plaster, the interior, and portions at the back, show heavy woodwork dating probably from about the beginning of the sixteenth century ; in the middle distance is shown the wall and fence protecting the fine spring from which the village takes its name.

The arch of the old lock-up remains, but the church has been pulled down, leaving only the ivy-covered tower and the churchyard with its many tombstones. Why the inhabitants in 1848 thought it necessary to do this is beyond comprehension,

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as, judging from the work in the old tower, it must have been a much finer building than any they are likely to have again.

The finely toned bells, the screen, font, and communion table, with several of the monuments and brasses, were removed to the new church. These include a small brass with the kneeling figure of Lady Jane, daughter of John Agmondesham of Ledrede, wife of Sir John Iwarby of Ewell, 1515, and the large monument of Sir William Lewen, Lord Mayor of London in 1717, with his son and wife; there are memorials to several members of the Glyn family, one of whom, Sir Richard, was Lord Mayor in 1758, and others to the Munro, Calverley, and Bulkeley families.

The stream of water which bursts forth at the side of the street is of sufficient quantity to drive a flour-mill a few hundred yards away; it forms a pond on either side of the street above the mill; below it passes into another pond, which, with the aid of steam as an auxiliary, drives a larger mill, and thence, receiving some small tributaries, it wanders through the meadows to Kingston as the Hogmill brook. In its upper portions the stream is pretty, with water as clear as crystal, and until recently was famous for its trout, but probably tar from the roads has destroyed these; I saw none.

A path from the lower mill leads across the fields, past a farm to Ewell Court, the residence of J. H. Bridges, Esq., a fine large house in the Tudor style, but either rebuilt or entirely new.

Ewell was held by the king at the Domesday Survey, and fifty-two tenants of land are mentioned, with two mills, probably on the same sites as these existing. "To this manor pertains the church of Leatherhead with forty acres of arable land."

The manor remained with the Crown until about 1154,



Henry 112

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when Henry II. gave lands here to Jordan de Blossville ; he also gave lands to Maurice de Creoun, whose heir of the same name, a knight of Anjou, in 1272 granted all his rights in Ewell to Sir Robert Burnel ; Mr. Manning thought that these two grants were the origin of the manors of Rookesley and Fitzniel. The same king, in 1156, gave to the Prior and Canons of Merton all his property in Ewell “ free of all customs and secular services ” ; Richard I. granted the canons right of assart over 101 acres—that is, to root up woodlands and convert them into pasture or arable land.

On the suppression of the priory in 1538 the manor reverted to the Crown, and was added to the Honour of Hampton Court ; in 1563 Queen Elizabeth gave the manor of Ewell to Henry Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel ; his daughter and coheir married John, Lord Lumley, who died without issue in 1609, when his sister, Barbara, became heir to the estates. She married Humphrey Lloyd of Denbigh, a learned antiquary, and after his death William Williams ; her son by the first husband became heir to the estates, and they remained with the Lloyds until near the middle of the eighteenth century, the last male being Dr. Lloyd, who was rector of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. He died in 1730, and vested his estates in trustees for the use of his sisters during their lives, with remainder to Lord John Russell, afterwards Duke of Bedford, the patron of the church in Covent Garden. In 1755 the Duke sold Ewell to Edward Northey, whose descendants were the subsequent owners ; the Rev. E. W. Northey is now the lord of the manor.

A portion of the manor never owned by the priory of Merton, Battailes, or Botolphs, was granted by Henry I. to William de Battaile ; early in the fifteenth century this was held

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by Thomas Hayton, whose daughter married Thomas Carew, second son of Nicholas Carew of Beddington. He died in 1430, leaving three daughters, one of whom married William Saunders of Charlewood, whose son, Henry, purchased the shares of his aunts and became sole proprietor ; his descendants held it until 1638, when it was conveyed to Thomas Turgis of Gatton, and it was held by his descendants for more than a century, when it was sold to Anthony Chamier of Epsom, whose descendants and relatives held it until 1784, when this, with the manors of Fitzniel and Rookesley, were sold to Thomas Calverley, who died in 1797 ; the estates descended to his son of the same name, who built Ewell Castle in 1804, on the site of the old manor house.

The manor of Fitzniel was held by Robert le Fitz Neele in 1331, in portions, from the prior of Merton, from Thomas de Codyngton, and, with three water-mills, from the abbot of Chertsey.

In 1437 Richard Leversegge released to John Iwarby and his heirs certain lands in the parishes of Ewell, Codyngton, and Epsom, which belonged to his father ; these were held by the Iwarbys until about 1485, when they passed by marriage to the Saunders ; from them, probably by marriage, to the Hordes, thence to Thomas Turgis, and subsequently to the Calverleys. The manner of Rookesley, after being held by the Melbourns, Merstons, and Warhams, also went to Thomas Turgis, and to the Calverleys.

Much of the common land was enclosed in 1801, and at a later time the weekly market was removed to Epsom.

One distinguished native of Ewell well deserves remembrance, not for his convivial habits and forthright speech, but for his poetry. Bishop Richard Corbet was the son of a wealthy market gardener

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who farmed a large extent of land at Ewell, and at Whitton, near Hounslow, and was probably of the same jovial disposition ; otherwise he would hardly have been a friend of Ben Jonson, who wrote the epitaph for his monument in Twickenham Church.

The son was a favourite of James I., who made him Bishop of Oxford in 1628, and of Norwich in 1632. His *Journey to France* is curiously modern and witty, but what language would the man who wrote the dainty *Farewell to the Fairies* have used to those who pulled down the church where he worshipped as a boy ?—

“Lament, lament, old abbeys,
The fairies lost command ;
They did but change priests’ babies,
But some have changed your land ;
And all your children sprung from thence
Are now grown Puritans ;
Who live as changelings ever since
For love of your domains.

At morning and at evening both,
You merry were and glad,
So little care of sleep or sloth
These pretty ladies had ;
When Tom came home from labour,
Or Cis to milking rose,
Then merrily went their tabor,
And nimbly went their toes.

Witness those rings and roundelays
Of theirs, which yet remain,
Were footed in Queen Mary’s days
On many a grassy plain ;
But since of late Elizabeth
And later, James came in
They never danced on any heath
As when the time hath been.”

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At the east side of the village a path runs north across the fields towards Nonsuch, and enters the old avenue leading out to the main road. In the grounds of Ewell Castle, now the residence of Captain C. Wiener, there are some fragments of an outlying portion of the palace of Nonsuch ; but, except these, there is nothing left of that gorgeous structure which Henry VIII. began to build when he tired of Oatlands, but did not live to finish.

Its general appearance is well known from the engravings by Speed and Hofnagel, and detailed descriptions are given by Paul Hentzner, Evelyn, Pepys, and others.

Evelyn records one visit in 1666 during its occupancy by the Exchequer, which was transferred to Nonsuch during the plague, when he took "an exact view of the plaster statues and bass relievos," which he thought must have been done by some eminent Italian, though the work has since been traced to John Hethe, an Englishman in the service of Henry VIII. He laments the loss of goodly trees "felled by those destructive and avaricious rebels in the late war," and notes some lilac trees in the grounds, said to have been the first introduced into England ; these were new to Evelyn, who describes them as trees which bear no fruit, but only a most pleasant smell ; the beauty of the flower does not seem to have appealed to him.

After King Henry was gathered to his fathers, his thrifty daughter, Mary, thought Nonsuch "meet rather to be pulled down and sold by piece meal, than to be perfected at her charges" ; but the Earl of Arundel, "for the love and honour he

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bare his old master, wished to buy it, and did so by exchange of fair lands, which he gave to her Highness" ; he finished the house and gardens in the manner intended by the late king, and was proud of his work, the house being described as the pearl of the realm. Afterwards he had the honour and expense of entertaining Queen Elizabeth for her first visit to Nonsuch in 1559, soon after she ascended the throne.

Great banquets were prepared, with a masque and music, which continued until midnight on Sunday. On Monday she witnessed a course from her standing in the park, and at night a play was acted by the boys of St. Paul's, followed by a costly banquet, with music and drums, the food being served on dishes of rich gilt.

The Queen's visit lasted a week, and was fitly crowned by the Earl giving her a cupboard of plate. Possibly Lord Arundel found these entertainments too costly, and he passed the estate to his son-in-law, Lord Lumley, who entertained the Queen on several occasions, and perhaps was not sorry to sell the house with the Home Park to her Majesty, who in her later years spent part of every summer at Nonsuch.

The letter in which Rowland Whyte gives an account of the last interview between the Earl of Essex and Elizabeth is dated from this house : " Upon Michaelmas Eve, about 10 o'clock in the morning, my lord of Essex lighted at the Court gate in post, and made all haste to the presence, and so to the Privy Chamber, and stayed not till he came to the Queen's bedchamber, where he found the Queen all newly up, the hair about her face ; he kneeled unto her, kissed her hands, and had some private speech with her which seemed to give him great content-

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ment. . . . 'Tis much wondered at here that he went so boldly to her Majesty's presence, she being not ready, and he so full of dirt and mire that his very face was full of it." A longer interview followed, and gracious usage ; but at night he was a prisoner in his chamber, and on Monday was committed to the custody of the Keeper of York House. Essex overestimated his influence with the Queen, and continued to do so until the end on Tower Hill ; probably Elizabeth returned no more to Non-such.

James I. settled the place on his queen, and Charles I. did likewise ; Parliament came and took possession, the grounds were sold, and the house leased to Algernon Sidney ; the Little Park passed to General Lambert, and the Great Park to Colonel Pride.

At the Restoration the house was restored to Henrietta Maria, the Queen Dowager. When the plague began in 1665, it was fitted up for use by the Exchequer, and business matters brought both Evelyn and Pepys here. In 1670 the palace and park were given by Charles II. to the Duchess of Cleveland, who immediately adopted Queen Mary's idea, and pulled the house down, sold the materials, and parcelled the land into farms.

When Henry VIII. first acquired the manor, he enclosed about 1600 acres, and formed two parks—the Great or Worcester Park and the Little or Home Park. In the latter stood the parish church and the manor house of Cuddington ; these were entirely swept away and the palace erected on their site.

When Spencer visited the place about 1770, he described a large farmhouse which had been built out of the ruins ; the gardens had been turned into cornfields.

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The present house, now the residence of Lieutenant-Colonel Hon. Francis L. L. Colborne, is screened from the old avenue by some fine fir trees ; it is a large building erected from designs by Sir Jeffry Wyatville about 1804, pseudo-Tudor in style, and covered with cement in accordance with the tastes of that time ; there are many other examples of the same kind in this neighbourhood and other parts of Surrey. Near the gate towards Cheam there is a cross and fountain, erected in 1895 in memory of their parents by the sons and daughters of Gamul and Matilda Farmer, whose grandfather bought Nonsuch soon after Spencer's visit.

The old village of Cheam is around the church, with a wide fringe of new streets and houses radiating along all the roads ; there is a considerable number of old houses, many of them covered with clapboard, and a timbered cottage of early sixteenth-century date, now part of a brewery.

A large house near the church, known as White Hall, also covered with clapboard, and having a projecting room over the doorway, has many legends attached to it ; being so near Nonsuch, of course, Queen Elizabeth and her maids of honour are dragged in ; one of the rooms is known as the council chamber, and large vaults cut in the sandstone beneath have their share in the stories. One cannot estimate the age of a house that is boarded over, but the oldest brickwork visible on the outside appears to date from about the middle of the seventeenth century.

There does not appear to be any doubt that Cheam school was first started in this building in 1666, when, during the Great Plague, several London gentlemen sent their children to a small school then kept in White Hall. Since then many dis-

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tinguished names have been associated with it as masters and pupils ; among the latter were Charles, son of Sir William D'Avenant, and Richard Glover, author of *Boadicea*, and *Leonidas* ; among the masters were the Rev. William Gilpin, author of *Forest Scenery*, Lives of Latimer, Wykliffe, Huss, Cranmer, and many others ; when he became vicar of Boldre, he was succeeded here by his son.

A Mr. Bovey, who died in 1700, was a tenant of White Hall for a considerable time. This gentleman, according to tradition, had a talent for making his own money ; most of his time was spent in the vaults, and he always paid for everything with new coins ; for the popular imagination these two peculiarities were sufficient—it is not recorded that any one refused the new coins, or found them bad.

Some years after his death a local bricklayer was employed to do some repairs, and during the work found another vault concealed, wherein was an iron chest, which he assured the guileless owner was quite empty, and he was allowed to remove it ; soon after this poor man bought several houses in Sutton, but that might be a coincidence.

White Hall is now the residence of Miss Killick, and has been occupied by members of her family for over a hundred and fifty years.

The present church was erected in 1864, and contains nothing of interest.

When the old church was pulled down, the chancel was allowed to remain standing in the churchyard ; it contains the many fine tombs of the Lumley family, but can only be seen by application to the clergyman.

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The monuments include one to John, Lord Lumley, 1609 ; one to his first wife, Jane, daughter of the Earl of Arundel ; and another to his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John, Lord D'Arcy.

Lord Lumley was an enthusiastic genealogist, and the inscription traces his pedigree back for sixteen generations to Liuph, an Anglo-Saxon, and there are nineteen shields of arms showing the ramifications of the family.

The work here is modest in comparison with what he did at the church of Chester-le-Street, where he erected monuments for them all, buying these from demolished monastery chapels, and having them adapted and altered as required.

It is interesting to note that the monuments were erected here during the lifetime of Lord Lumley ; and a deed was executed between him on the one part, and William Fromond and other inhabitants of Cheam, stating, "that he had caused three monuments to be erected in West Cheam—for himself, Lady Jane, his wife deceased, and Lady Elizabeth, then his wife ; he hopes they may be preserved, and that there is not any person of Godly disposition, humour, or condition who will deface, destroy, or take away the same ; and in consideration that the clerk be careful to sweep, and rub the said monuments, and that the parson shall call on the clerk to perform this ; and for relief of the poor, he grants to Fromond, and the others, a yearly rent charge of forty shillings issuing from his estate here, to be paid at Lady Day only in every year, 6s. 8d. to the parson, 13s. 4d. to the clerk ; 2s. apiece to ten poor people." Lord Lumley's library was bought by James I., and became part of the Royal Library, which in later days helped to form the collection in the British Museum.

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There are several brasses which were removed here from the Fromond Chapel—one, a man in armour, 1480; one to Bartholomew Fromond, 1579; and others to Thomas Fromond, 1542, Elizabeth his wife, and ten children, one of these being the Elizabeth Fromond whose brass is in Ashted Church; there is also a helmet, probably that of Lord Lumley, and a holy-water bowl.

This chapel is all that remains of the church where Sidney Smith was married in 1800 to Miss Pybus, daughter of a banker, and sister to one of the Lords of the Admiralty, who was so incensed at the *mésalliance* that he would have nothing more to do with her.

The proximity of Nonsuch Palace may have had some influence in the making of five out of six successive rectors of Cheam into Bishops during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; these were Anthony Watson, Lancelot Andrews, George Mountain, Richard Senhouse, and John Hacket.

The manor of Cheam was held by the monks of Christchurch, Canterbury, from very early times; it was cut in two by Archbishop Lanfranc, and the revenues divided between the archbishop and the monastery. East Cheam was retained by Lanfranc, and continued with the archbishops until 1539, when Cranmer exchanged it with the King for Chislet Park in Kent. In 1555 East Cheam was granted to Sir Anthony Browne, and by him in 1583 sold to the Earl of Arundel. West Cheam was retained by the Priors of Christchurch until the dissolution of the monastery. Henry VIII. leased it to Ralph Goldsmith, and Queen Elizabeth, in 1585, granted the reversion to John, Lord Lumley, who had acquired East Cheam by marriage; he died in

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1609, leaving no issue surviving, and the estate devolved on his nephew, Henry Lloyd ; it then descended in the same way as Ewell. The Rev. Edward W. Northey is now lord of the manor.

The Fromonds held the manor house of East Cheam from the Crown, and probably from the archbishops before the manor was granted to Sir Anthony Browne, and appear to have acquired a small estate independent of that grant ; this consisted of nine acres known as Lampland and Lightland, receiving these names no doubt from an ancient tenure from the archbishops to provide a light and lamp for some shrine. The estate passed by the marriage of a Fromond heiress to the Walmesleys. Bartholomew Walmesley died in 1701, and his daughter, Catherine, inherited the estate ; in 1712, being then fifteen years old, she married Lord Petre, who died next year ; and in 1733 she took as a second husband Charles Stourton, whom she also survived, and died in 1785, when her grandson, Lord Petre, became the heir ; he sold most of the land to Mr. Tate of Epsom and the house to Mr. Bullock, by whom it was sold to John Antrobus, who pulled down the old manor house and erected Lower Cheam Park.

The manor house of West Cheam has also long vanished.

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About three miles of uninteresting road lie between Cheam and Maldon ; a new suburb is growing at Worcester Park, and new houses, great and small, are gradually covering the fields.

Maldon Church stands solitary except for the vicarage, a farm, and one or two new houses. The name is said to be derived from Mael, a cross, and dune, a hill ; there is not much of

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the latter, but the derivation is confirmed to some extent by an extract from a Court roll quoted by Manning referring to Lynce's cross, which marked a point in the boundaries of the parishes of Cheam, Cuddington, and Maldon.

At the Domesday Survey William de Wateville held a portion of the land from the Abbot of Chertsey, and another portion from Richard de Tonbridge ; on the whole estate a population of twenty-five is recorded, nineteen villeins, three bordars and three bondmen, one mill, and a chapel.

In 1206 the land belonged to Brian Fitz Ralph and his wife, Gunnera ; in 1216 the sheriff was commanded to give ownership to Hugh de Windsor, but apparently it returned to the Fitz Ralphs as, in 1240, Peter de Maldon, cousin and heir to Eudo and Brian Fitz Ralph, with consent of William de Wateville, his heir-apparent, granted to Walter de Merton the manors of Maldon, Chessington, and Farleigh, rated together at three knights' fees. Tenure by knights' service made the owner incur the obligations of knighthood, otherwise his lands were liable to seizure ; in this instance the sheriff did seize the estates ; but, in 1245, an exception was made in favour of Walter de Merton, he being an ecclesiastic ; this was confirmed in 1249 by a grant of free warren, and again by a trial at Guildford.

The estates were purchased by Walter de Merton with the view of founding and endowing a college for students ; these at first were eight of his own kinsmen, and vacancies were to be filled as far as possible by relatives.

He was restrained by the deed of conveyance from transferring the manors to Jews or to religious foundations ; this was likely to interfere with his intentions, as the warden and priests

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had the supervision of the estates, and he procured licences to convey the property to the house of scholars at Merton ; in 1264 he executed a charter of foundation.

In his grant he reserves to himself the occasional use of the manor house, and such accommodation for himself and his family as may be consistent with the support of the scholars.

About the same time Merton College in Oxford was begun, and when this was completed, the estates and school were transferred to that college, and the property administered from Oxford ; it continues to be so at the present day.

Walter de Merton, who had been twice Lord Chancellor, was made Bishop of Rochester in 1274 ; three years later he died from the effects of a fall from his horse. Three hundred and twenty years afterwards it occurred to the Master and Fellows of Merton College that something might be done to perpetuate his name, and they erected a monument to his memory in Rochester Cathedral.

The college retained undisturbed possession until Henry VIII. began to build Nonsuch Palace ; he then took from them 120 acres of land adjoining the Great Park.

When Queen Elizabeth desired to obtain the estate, she obliged the college to grant her a lease of their manors of Maldon and Chessington, with the advowson and living, for a term of 5000 years at a rent of £40.

This lease was assigned to Lord Arundel in payment for Nonsuch, and by Lord Lumley was conveyed to William Goode, who had been physician to Mary, Queen of Scots.

Towards the end of the reign of James I. the college tried to get the holder ejected ; but he, relying on the validity of the

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royal grant, had paid valuable consideration. The case was compromised by putting the estates under trustees, for the holder's benefit, for eighty years ; after the lapse of that time they were to revert to the college. In 1633 they obtained from Charles I. a confirmation of the proceedings, but the King reserved the portion enclosed in Nonsuch Park by Henry VIII.

At the end of the eighty years, in 1707, the estate was surrendered by Lady Morley, and the college then transferred all the tithes of the demesne lands, except the hay, which already belonged to him, to the vicar ; the lands they leased to Richard Willis, afterwards Bishop of Winchester.

The church is the only building of interest now ; it was rebuilt in 1610, and a new nave and chancel were added on the north side in 1873. The edifice is of red brick, but some of the windows in the tower are of stone, and are probably part of the old church, the mullions have been cut out of the upper windows, but these are flat arched with hood mouldings.

The pulpit is very elaborate, with sculptured panels in high relief ; the screen is new, and loses effect from over-delicacy in the work ; the side screen is better. On the site of the old altar there is a stone slab inscribed : "Here stood the Lord's Table on Maeldune, the hill of the Cross, for well-nigh a thousand years, until the consecration of the new church, Decr. 7, 1875."

The mural monuments include two to former lords of the manor—John Goode, 1627, and Sir Thomas Morley, 1693.

The Ruding family were long connected with this church, and there is a tablet to John Ruding, who died in 1787, "on

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passing from Madras to China," and to his wife, Jane, who was born in "Petersburgh" in Russia, and died in Portman Place.

A black marble slab records the death of "John Hamnett, Gent, deceast 1643, buried in the dust and grave of his wife, Elizabeth, deceast 1623"—

"Deare Consort ! well o'ertaken, twice my wife,
In death made one dust, as one flesh in life ;
Living, one bedd wee had ; now dead, one grave.
Thus twice made one, at last one coveringe have.
Whom God hath so together joyned, lett none
Asunder put till the Resurrection,
When wee shall both together wake, though thou
Twenty years since to bedd went'st, I but now ;
Thrice espoused, why not foure times ? 'Tis said
My wife and Parish are both widowed."

There are some modern memorials, and, in the base of the tower, a portion of the old pulpit and some good oak panelling—both early Jacobean work.

Among the distinguished natives and residents in the parish who may be mentioned were Thomas Ravis, one of the translators of the New Testament appointed by James I. ; he was afterwards Bishop of Gloucester and of London ; he died in 1609. Dr. Edward Hinton, a learned schoolmaster and translator, son of the Rev. Edward Hinton, who became vicar of Maldon in 1639 ; the father is worthy of record if only for a sermon preached at the funeral of the gentleman responsible for the rhyming epitaph which has been quoted. The title of the sermon is, "The Vanity of Self-Boasters, preached at the funeral of John Hamnett, Gent, late of Maldon in Surrey."

The famous numismatist, Rogers Ruding, was vicar from 1793 to 1820, and wrote his *Annals of the Coinage of*

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Britain and its Dependencies and other works while living here. Another vicar, Henry Stephens, instituted in 1714, managed to write a Latin poem on the air-pump, and, for a very flattering dedication of a volume of sermons to Queen Caroline, was promoted to a prebend's stall at Winchester.

Worcester Park House was built about the end of the eighteenth century by a son of William Taylor, who commenced the manufacture of gunpowder here in 1720.

Sutton is only a short distance east from Cheam ; it is now a bright bustling suburb, with many fine shops, and streets crowded with well-dressed people. The inhabitants have been so anxious to remove any reproach of the past from their midst that, except one eighteenth-century house near the south end of the town, there is nothing left of bygone days. There used to be an old church, an old manor house, and a famous old inn—they are all gone ; the new houses spread far and wide, and all its history is on the printed page. The manor belonged to Chertsey Abbey at the Domesday Survey and there were twenty-five inhabitants ; in 1790 there were a hundred houses, and now only the rate collectors know how many.

Its old name was Sutton Abbot, and the abbots had the right of a gallows, a ducking-stool, and a pillory.

In 1538 the manor was granted to Sir Nicholas Carew, and remained with that family more or less until about the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1663 it was granted by Charles II. to Jerome Weston, Earl of Portland ; and by his brother, Thomas, it was sold in 1669 to Sir Robert Long ; by the marriage of one of his daughters it went to the Brownlowe family, and in 1716 was sold by Sir John Brownlowe to Henry

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Cliffe ; it passed by marriage to Thomas Hatch of New Windsor in 1785. Charles E. Lamplugh is now the lord of the manor.

The old church is said to have been of little architectural value, and was swept away in 1864 ; a few of the monuments were preserved—Lord Talbot, 1782, Dame Dorothy Brownlowe, 1698, the Rev. R. Wyche, Rector, 1598, Isaac Littlebury, son of the bookseller in Little Britain, 1710, and others.

William Stephen, who was rector here at the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries, was preacher to the Lord Mayor and the House of Commons, and a somewhat plain-spoken man ; a very unflattering sermon on King Charles, the martyr, drew attention to him, and another discourse in the same strain, preached at St. Mary le Bow before the Lord Mayor in 1694, followed ; he escaped scathless for these, but when, in 1707, he published a letter reflecting on Secretary Harley and the Duke of Marlborough, he was arrested, fined one hundred marks, sentenced to stand twice in the pillory at Charing Cross, and ordered to find securities for good behaviour ; probably owing to his age, the pillory portion of the sentence was remitted after he had been taken to the spot and witnessed the preparations.

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Carshalton is about a mile east from Sutton, and has more of beauty and more of evident history still surviving ; though this is rapidly being swallowed up by new streets and houses, yet the older part of the village and some of its surroundings are extremely pleasant. In every direction springs of clear water

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bubble up and form into ditches by the wayside and two considerable ponds near the church. The great herb industry has in some measure departed from the district, but there are still remnants of this, with market gardening and flower growing. Some flour milling is still done, but that seems to be the only one of several forms of work surviving of the list given about 1850; then there were ten mills engaged in calico printing, flour milling, snuff grinding, paper, flock, and leather making; these, with lime burning, provided work for the population; now it is largely a residential suburb of London. The view given is from the Beddington Road looking west and showing on the left part of the wall of Carshalton Park.

At the Domesday Survey it is named Aultone, and had a population of nine villeins, nine cottars, and seven bondmen on one portion, and three villeins, one cottar, and three bondmen on another, with about twelve hundred acres of arable land altogether.

About 1135 the manor was held by Geoffrey de Magnaville, a grandson of the man who held it at the Survey; though in high favour with King Stephen, he joined the forces of the Empress Maud against him, and in consequence his estates were confiscated and the manor given to Pharamus de Bolonia, nephew of King Stephen's wife. Sibylla, daughter of Pharamus, conveyed the estate by marriage to Ingelram de Fiennes, and their descendant, William de Fiennes, in 1270, mortgaged the estate to William de Ambesas, an attorney, in order to provide the money necessary for him to accompany Prince Edward on the Crusades; he reserved to himself a rental of twenty marks, but probably did not return from the expedition, as his son transferred his interest in the manor to William de Medburn.



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Some time afterwards it came into the possession of Sir Nicholas de Carreu, who obtained a grant of free warren in 1375 ; he died in 1391, and the manor was declared of no value owing to the rent charge made on it by William de Fiennes in 1270.

By the marriage of a daughter of Sir Richard Carew, Carshalton was conveyed to John St. John, and their son sold one part to Richard Burton in 1580, and the remainder to W. Cole ; the latter moiety came into the hands of the trustees of Sir Edmund Hoskins in 1655, and was sold in 1696 to Sir William Scawen, who, about 1712, bought the portion which had been sold to Richard Burton. The estate remained with the Scawen family until 1781, when it was sold to George Taylor, whose descendant, Capt. F. W. B. Taylor, is now the lord of the manor.

Sir William Scawen was a wealthy merchant in the city who risked nearly all his money in the cause of William of Orange ; his "venture" on that monarch was so large that he went to the siege of Namur expressly to see that William did not run into unnecessary dangers ; ultimately he made great profit, and during the reign of Queen Anne he was three times knight of the shire for Surrey.

He was succeeded by his nephew, Thomas Scawen, who projected a great house here, and about 1723 employed Leoni to make designs for it ; materials were collected, a brick wall was built enclosing Carshalton Park, two miles in circuit, and magnificent iron gates were erected ; there the scheme stopped, the house was never built, and after a time the whole estate was sold for less than the money expended on the boundary wall. The gates remained in position until about two years ago, when they were sold for a fabulous sum ; the estate is being developed for building purposes.

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The Gaynesfords of Crowhurst had an estate here for several centuries ; this was sold by Henry Gaynesford in 1547 to Sir Roger Copley ; the site of the manor house—Stone Court—was sold to Walter Lambard, who built a house there, retaining the name of Gaynesford's Place. This was afterwards the property of Sir Henry Burton, and of Thomas Scawen whose son sold it in 1781 to William Andrews ; the house was pulled down in 1800. Carshalton House was built by Dr. Radcliffe when he retired from town ; he had been physician to William III. and Queen Anne, and, despite his brusque manner, had made a large fortune. Summoned from here to attend Queen Anne in her last illness, he pleaded bad health and refused to go, much to the popular indignation ; probably his plea was true enough, as he only lived three months afterwards, and he was not a man likely to die either from chagrin or vexation ; he bequeathed £40,000 for the foundation of the library bearing his name at Oxford. His house was sold to Sir John Fellowes, a director of the South Sea Company, who pulled it down and built a new one on the site ; this was afterwards occupied by Lord Chancellor Hardwicke and by the Hon. Thomas Walpole. It has been sold several times since, and recently was occupied as a boarding-school.

The church has undergone many alterations during the nineteenth century, the oldest remaining part being the south aisle and chancel, where there is some Jacobean woodwork ; the pulpit probably dates from the eighteenth century—fielded panels with a cross inlay of poor design.

There is a good brass to Nicholas Gaynesford, “ sometime Esqyer to the body of the most noble prince, Edward III. and Henry VII. ; and Margaret, his wife, also one of the gentilwym-

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men of the most noble p'ncesses Elizabeth, and Elizabeth, wyfes of the aforesaid most noble p'nces Kynges."

The brasses show traces of enamel ; the man is in armour, with sword and gauntlet ; the lady has a wonderful headdress and a robe with close sleeves ; there are brasses of four children ; four others are missing ; the brass is undated, showing that it was provided in the lifetime of Sir Nicholas, and, as often happened, the heirs forgot to have the dates inserted. There is an elaborate and costly mural monument to Henry Herringman, citizen and stationer of London, and Alice, his wife, "who were married in 1650 and lived fifty-eight years and upwards very happily and comfortably together"—this was the publisher of D'Avenant and John Dryden ; a tablet to Dixius Long, 1664 ; monuments to Sir John Fellowes, 1724, and Edward Fellowes, 1730 ; Sir Edmond Hoskins, 1664 ; William Scawen, and Mary, his wife, daughter of Sir William Maynard of Walthamstow. One tablet to Robert Teagge, 1711, is remarkable for the atrocious poetry of the epitaph. Another is remarkable for the inscription—

" M. S.

Under the middle stone y^t guards ye ashes of a certayne fryer, sometime vicar of this place, is raked ye duste of WILLIAM QUELCHE, B.D., who ministered in ye same place since the Reformac'on. His lott was, through God's mercy, to burne incence here about 30 y^r and ended his course April the 10 an^o D'ni 1654, being aged 64 years I. Reg 13, 31.

Those whom a two fac't (faced) service here made twaine
At length a friendly grave makes one again,
Happy that day that hides o^r sinful jarrs,
That shutts up all o^r shame in earthen barrs ;
Here let us sleepe as one, till C^t ye juste
Shall sever both o^r service, faith, and duste."

A considerable number of memorials mentioned by earlier

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writers I could not discover ; they may have been removed during recent alterations.

John Evelyn in 1658 describes Carshalton as “excellently watered, and capable of being made a most delicious seat, being on the sweet downs, and a champagne about it full planted with walnut and cherry trees, which afford a considerable rent.” It is still excellently watered, but the rest of the surroundings are considerably altered ; the ponds by the church are brimming with clear cool water, and, near by, the well is still visible which sprang up under the hoof of Anne Boleyn’s horse ; this lady’s name is not often associated with miracles, and indeed none was necessary here ; before the roads were paved any ordinary horse might have broken through the chalk crust and allowed the water to flow ; being the horse of the consort of Henry VIII. of blessed memory, the fact was noted, recorded, and the hole enclosed as a well.

Wallington now reaches to the eastern boundary of Carshalton Park, and extends far beyond the railway on the south towards the downs below Woodmansterne and Hungry Bottom. It is a suburb of new houses ; the manor extends northwards to the Wandle, and near that river there was an old chapel, but this was pulled down in 1790, and left Wallington entirely bare of antiquities ; there is still a considerable industry in the cultivation of lavender and other herbs.

Until the twelfth century the manor was owned by the King ; it was then granted by Henry II. to Maurice de Creoun ; it passed by marriage to Guy de la Val, who joined the barons against King John and lost his estate. The next holder, John Fitz Lucy, was forfeited for remaining in Normandy and not

HALING PARK

taking up his residence here. Before 1394 it had been held by the families of Salinis, Lynde, and Lodelawe; one of the Lodelawes married Sir John Dymock, and their descendants held Wallington and Tooting until 1594, when Sir Edward Dymock sold Wallington to James Harrington, and by him the estate was transferred two years afterwards to Sir Francis Carew. It was held by the Carews until 1684, when it was leased to Robert Spencer, Anthony Bowyer, and John Spencer for five hundred years; by them the estate was conveyed to William Bridges, Surveyor General of Ordnance, who died in 1714. This lease has still about two hundred and seventy years to run. Mrs. Bridges is now the lady of the manor.

HALING PARK

Haling Park is about a mile to the east, on the ridge of the hill south from Croydon; the park has lost something of its space, and is fringed on every side with modern houses, so that only from one point can a glimpse of the house be had from the outer world; this has been much altered, the chimneys rebuilt, and mullioned windows have been replaced by wooden sashes, giving it rather a Georgian appearance, but a good deal of the old work remains.

In the reign of Edward iv. the manor of Haling was held by Thomas Warham, a citizen of London, from the Archbishop of Canterbury at a rental of twenty-one shillings and one half-penny; he died about 1478, and, judging from the construction of the older parts of the existing house, it was probably built or enlarged by him. The lease passed to William Warham,

HALING PARK

Archdeacon of Canterbury and nephew of Archbishop Warham ; from him Henry VIII. took the estate in exchange for other lands.

About 1554 it was granted by Queen Mary to Sir John Gage, who also held the manors of Burstow Park and Burstow Court Lodge ; the first of these he had inherited, the second he held on lease from Archbishop Warham. He was a distinguished soldier during the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., and a member of an ancient Norman family. The Sire de Gaugy named on the Roll of Battle Abbey derived his name from the seignory of Gaugy, near Rouen. Ralph de Gaugy married the daughter of Henry II. in 1166 ; Robert, his son, was an adherent of King John, and by marriage with Beatrice Lovel obtained lands in the north of England ; his second son, William, was made Constable of Caermarthen Castle in 1234, and received grants of land in South Wales and Gloucester from Henry III. His family made their residence at Cirencester until about 1440.

Sir John Gage acquired Burstowe, Penshurst, and other estates by marriage with Margaret St. Clere of Igham ; he died in 1476, and his grandson, Sir John, succeeded to the other estates, and obtained a grant of Haling ; he was then an old man, and had served in many offices—Governor of Calais, Member of the Privy Council, Vice-Chamberlain, and Captain of the Guards, Controller of the Household, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Constable of the Tower, and Knight of the Garter.

After the death of Edward VI. he became Lord Chamberlain to Queen Mary, “ then having served all these rooms and offices, truly, faithfully, and painfully, from the first year of Henry VIII.



HALING PARK

to the fifth year of Queen Mary ; he died at Firle in the same year that Calais ceased to be an English possession."

His third son, Robert, received the manor of Haling and held it till his death in 1587 ; he left two sons ; Robert, the eldest, was executed for complicity in the Babington plot in 1586, and the estate passed to his brother, John, who was imprisoned, and had his lands forfeited for harbouring one Beesley, a priest, during the alarms preceding the Armada, when Walsingham's spies were everywhere, and his powers used ruthlessly for the extermination of Jesuits.

The manor was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1593 to Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham and Lord High Admiral of England—a man whose services have been entirely overshadowed by the fame of the captains who served under him against the Spanish Armada ; this must have been so even during his lifetime, for little seems to be known of his personality, though we may learn of the houses and lands bestowed on him in recompense for his services.

He died at Haling House in 1624, and was buried at midnight in Reigate Church, but no kind hand raised a stone to his memory ; and the entry in the register was the only trace left, until the accidental discovery of the inscription on his coffin, a copy of which was engraved and placed in the chancel at Reigate in 1888.

Some time after his death Haling was restored to John Gage, whose son, Sir Henry, was the gallant soldier who twice relieved Basing House, and was killed in a skirmish at Cullum Bridge, near Abingdon, in 1644. Before that, however, in 1627, his father had sold Haling Park to Christopher Gardiner, whose

HALING PARK

family retained it until 1707, when it was sold to Edward Stringer ; from his widow the estate descended to her grandson, William Parker Hammond, and it remained with his descendants until 1833 ; it was afterwards occupied by Mr. Penlees and by Mr. Fenwick, but has been for many years the property of the Watney family, and is now the residence of Miss Watney.

The progress of the Gage family need not be traced further in connection with Haling Park, but as a matter of association two members of it may be noted. Joseph Gage in the seventeenth century made an immense fortune in the Mississippi scheme, and lost it when that speculation failed ; he then went to Spain and acquired great wealth, became a grandee and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Lombardy.

Another, Thomas Gage, became Governor of Montreal in 1760 and Governor of Massachusetts in 1774 ; at the outbreak of the American War he was Commander-in-Chief of the British forces ; his cold, inflexible character and active interference at Lexington precipitated the disastrous struggle, and ultimately he was recalled to England, where he died in 1788.

Haling Park was celebrated in verse by the poet Whitehead ; it still contains many fine old trees and is beautifully situated, sloping down into the valley ; new houses spread along the boundary, and electric tramways follow almost the same track as the old Merstham iron road, of which some remains still exist inside the park fence.

The new suburbs continue almost unbroken up the three valleys to Chipstead, to Caterham, and to Warlingham, and contain little of general interest.

Judge Bradshaw is said to have lived some time at Purley

SANDERSTEAD

Lodge, and in the same house, late in the eighteenth century, John Horne Tooke had his abode, and there wrote his *Diversions of Purley*, a jumble of wit, grammar, etymology, and metaphysics, and developed the troublesome desire to be buried in his own garden, for which purpose he had a vault prepared ; he did the same thing later on when he lived at Wimbledon, but it was not his fate to occupy either of them.

At an early date Osbert de Pirelea held lands here from the Abbot of Hyde, and they continued with his descendants until the middle of the fifteenth century, when it is supposed the family became extinct ; there are now a number of landowners.

SANDERSTEAD, FARLEY, CHELSHAM, ADDINGTON

From Sanderstead station a road leads south-east through a new town of villas and out into the open country, where the dew-laden travellers' joy festooning the hedges shines like may-blossom in the October sun—a pleasant tree-shaded road, with here and there an old yew marking the ancient tinnerns' way to the Thames, and a long, steady ascent to Sanderstead Church, standing alone beside the manor house, Sanderstead Court, a good red-brick house of the early eighteenth century, with later additions.

The manor was given about 958 by the mother of King Edward the Martyr to the Abbot of Hyde, near Winchester ; it was held by the Abbey at the time of the Domesday Survey, and appears to have remained with them till the dissolution of that house, though it was leased to the Saunders family in the time of Henry III. In 1539 Henry VIII. wished to give the manor to

SANDERSTEAD

Sir John Gresham, and in the following year that gentleman obtained all the monastic property in this and several other parishes ; he died in 1556, and this estate descended to Richard Gresham, who, in 1591, sold Sanderstead and Warlingham to John Ownsted, sergeant of the carriages to Queen Elizabeth ; but, as the estates were held by the feudal tenure of knights' service, and had been transferred without Royal licence, they were seized by the Crown officers ; on payment of a fine by Ownsted, they were released to him in 1594. Six years later he died without issue, and the estate was devised to his cousin, Harman Attwood, an attorney of Clifford's Inn, and his two sisters ; the property was held by that family for one hundred and fifty-nine years, when John Attwood, having no children, devised the estates to his nephew, Thomas Wigsell, an attorney of New Inn ; that gentleman died in 1778, and devised the property to his nephew, Attwood Wigsell, and indirectly it remains with his descendants. Esme F. Wigsell Arkwright is now lord of the manor and principal landowner.

The church is small, and has been a good deal renovated at different times during the nineteenth century ; built of flint, with stone quoins, it has a square tower and shingled spire ; there is one old yew on the east side, and the churchyard, surrounded by tall elm and lime trees, contains many old and new tombs.

There are many tablets and memorials in the church ; that to John Ownsted shows a man in armour kneeling before a desk, on which is an open book ; the figure is about eighteen inches high, and there are traces of colour on the escutcheon and the roses.

SANDERSTEAD

“Here lieth the bodie of John Ownsted, Esquyer, of Sanderstede Corte, servaunt to the most excellent princess and our dread Sovereigne Queen Elizabeth . . . 1600.”

There is a finely sculptured figure in a winding sheet, “in memory of Mary, daughter of Ralph Hawtrey, wife of Matthew Bedell, and widow of Ludovic Audeley, both of whom were owners of this manor, 1655.” This Audeley was a major in the parliamentary army, and one of the principal officers in the operations against the “Surrey Petitioners,” which ended in the fight at Kingston; he was also a member of the commission appointed by Oliver Cromwell for the regulation of church benefices. There is another Hawtrey tablet close by, dated 1678, and one to Robert Smith of Selsdon, 1836.

A heavily modelled grey and white marble monument, with the bust of a youth wearing long hair, has a long rhyming inscription, but no name; it is supposed to represent one of the Mellish family. In the north aisle a large monument of white stone and black marble commemorates George Mellish of London, his wife, and several other members of his family, 1654. There is a tablet to James Bradshaw of London, 1783, and many grave slabs on the floor; one of these—Elizabeth Lawrence, first wife of Harman Attwood—bears the date 1604. There is a brass to Nicholas Wood, 1586, with figures of three sons and seven daughters, and in the chancel another with finely engraved figures of a man and woman.

There are several tombs of the Attwood family, and one of Thomas Knight, late mason-in-chief to the city of London, 1680, in the churchyard.

The lands of Sanderstead Court and Selsdon Park join, and

FARLEY

extend on one side of the road for nearly a mile, with fine woods of beech, oak, poplar, and larch, to the small hamlet of Selsdon ; there is nothing of interest there. Turning south by the boundary of Selsdon Park, a glimpse of the house can be had from the road ; it is one of these stately pseudo-Tudor houses, built in castle form and covered with cement in the early part of the nineteenth century. It is a thinly peopled countryside, with wide, open fields, but having little to note except the pleasant views towards Hayes and the Kentish border, the road rising and dipping down across a succession of ridges and through some beech woods towards Farley—a long strip of village green with a few houses scattered round ; all these are modern, except one old cottage with a large outside chimney, of a type familiar in many of Morland's pictures. At the south end there is a solitary roadside inn—"The Harrow"—where food can be obtained.

The little church is more than half a mile from the village, near a large farmhouse ; it consists of a nave and chancel only, and has been restored, but there is a good deal of twelfth-century work still visible. There are two lancet lights in the east wall, and, like the windows in the nave, these are round-headed with wide splays ; the west porch is partly old, and the old font has also been restored. The monuments are few, but include an interesting brass to John Brock and Anna, his wife, with figures of them, four daughters, and one son, dated 1495 ; a slab with three scallop shells to Samuel Bernardus, D.D., and his wife, Elizabeth, 1657, 1705 ; a mural tablet to Robert Shallcross, 1772 ; William Shallcross, 1780 ; Sarah, wife of Robert, 1807, aged 96 ; and Ann, wife of William, 1805.

In the little churchyard there are two old yews, one about

CHELSHAM

seven feet in diameter, a few tombstones, and the green hillocks of the undistinguished dead.

The land belonged to the Watevilles from the Domesday Survey until 1240, when Peter de Codyngton and William de Wateville, his heir, conveyed it to Walter de Merton, who settled it on Merton College. The church belonged to the Convent of Tortington, near Arundel, and was conveyed by the prior to Walter de Merton in 1254; most of the land, and the living, still belong to Merton College; the present farm was the manor house, formerly surrounded by a moat, but no trace of that is now visible except a small pond by the roadside.

South from the church there is a large wood almost surrounding the Croydon Mental Hospital. Eastward a lane leads to a large village green, but there is now only one cottage there; and a pleasant wooded road leads southward by Scots Hall Farm to Ledgers, the residence of Henry A. Daniell, Esq. This was formerly a moated house, but is now a fine modern mansion in a beautiful park.

Nearly a mile west from this is Chelsham village—small, and of no interest, a few cottages round an open green, with a group in the middle, and an inn, which has been rebuilt, but if we may guess its antiquity from its sign, “The Bull,” it has been established some time, this was one of the badges of the Clares, and the last of that family who owned Chelsham died in 1375.

The church stands on a ridge a short distance east from Ledgers; its solitary position may be judged from the fact that in 1834 some thieves entered the building and stole one of the bells; neither thief nor bell was ever discovered.

The keys are kept at the third cottage from the lych gate;

CHELSHAM

the wayfarer has to walk some distance before he comes to any cottage at all, but the notice is quite right.

There is little to see—traces of thirteenth-century work in the building, a font probably of that date, and a fine sixteenth-century screen carved with scale work and other patterns, this has been cut down to about five feet in height; everything else is new, and there are no memorials of any sort in the building; all those mentioned by Manning and Bray have vanished. There are a few tombs in the churchyard, and the yew trees planted by Mr. Philips the schoolmaster, in 1746; these are now about two feet in diameter; that being the young growth of 167 years, the age of the Crowhurst and Tandridge yews, growing in similar situations, becomes rather bewildering. The position of this church, remote from any village, seems to show that the district has always been thinly inhabited; the forty-two villeins, bordars, and bondsmen enumerated in Domesday Book, have not greatly increased at the present day, if the asylum is left out of the calculation. This lack of population, the absence of large houses, and the non-existence of villages of any size on the back of the downs is explained by the scarcity of water; there are no brooks, and the ponds depend on the rainfall; the moats round some of the larger houses which formerly existed may have been partly for defensive purposes, but they were also certainly used as reservoirs for the supply of water to the horses and cattle, and maybe to human beings.

The recent extension of houses in these districts is entirely owing to the pipes of the water company, through which the water is pumped from the lower levels, and there must be some finality to that supply; even now there are quarrels about the various

CHELSHAM

pumping areas, and, though land speculators are optimistic people, it is questionable if some parts of Surrey are not carrying now sufficient population for all the water that can be obtained.

The manor of Chelsham was held from Richard de Clare by the Watevilles, and continued in their hands until 1318, when it passed to John de Burstow, the ancient owner of Smallfield Place. In 1458 Chelsham Wateville belonged to Sir Thomas Cook, a London alderman, who conveyed it to Robert Harding, a goldsmith of London; probably both of these were money-lenders; though we find Robert Harding ordering a distraint on William Uvedale to do fealty for his manor of Titsey, held of this manor at a rent of six shillings and four white capons, yet soon afterwards the Uvedales held Chelsham Court, and purchased Chelsham Wateville, uniting the two manors, which were held by that family until they died out about 1670; soon after that the manors were purchased by Harman Attwood of Sanderstead. Robert Arkwright, Esq., is now lord of the manor.

A portion of the manor was sold by Robert Harding, the goldsmith, to Richard Hayward of Oxted, who died in 1608, leaving one daughter, wife of William Roffey; her son by a former husband named Bickerstaff had this estate of Ficklehole; his eldest son was cupbearer to Charles I.; he died in 1704, deeply involved in debt, and the land was sold to Sir William Scawen of Carshalton and held by his descendants until 1774. After that it had many owners, including Sir Robert Mackreth, Michael Wood, Philip Stanhope, and Lawrence Keir. The small manors of Rowholts and Chevelers came into the hands of the Greshams in the sixteenth century.

A little beyond the shepherd's cottage where the church

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keys are kept, the road turns northward through a pleasant open country, with bits of woodland, where the foxgloves are still in bloom, though the bracken is changing colour and the brambles turning from red to purple; the only place of interest on the way is Fairchilds, now the residence of Arthur S. Daniell.

A mansion with four hundred acres of land was held here early in the fourteenth century by Thomas Fairchild; from his descendants it passed to the Leighs of Addington, who held it until 1770; it has had many owners since.

Unfortunately the old house was pulled down about the close of the eighteenth century; its age was unknown, but the statement that, when the panelling of the great hall was removed, the walls were found to be decorated with paintings of men in armour, shows that it was built before wainscot came into common use, and it may have been one of the earliest large timber houses in Surrey.

Addington is fortunate in being at some distance from the main lines of railway, and thus having the fate which overtakes all the villages on the skirts of London deferred for a time, and no doubt the great park and the palace of the archbishops have helped to stem the tide.

Though the church shows some late Norman and thirteenth-century work, it was practically rebuilt by Alderman Trecothick in 1773, much repaired in 1843, and restored in 1876; its principal interest now is in the monuments and brasses to the Hatteclyffe, Olliph, Leigh, and Trecothick families, and the tombs of several archbishops; the brasses include those to John Leigh, 1509, and Isabel, his wife, 1544; Thomas Hatteclyffe,

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sometime one of the four Masters of the Household of Henry VIII., and Anne, his wife, 1540.

The manor is still held by the tenure of serjeanty—a particular service to be rendered to the King—the service here has always had to do with cooking; the Domesday Survey says, “Tezelin the cook, holds of the king, Edinton, which Godric held of Edward the Confessor.” Bartholomew de Chesnaye held it afterwards on the same tenure; and Richard I. gave the manor to Peter Fitzalwin on his marriage with the daughter of Bartholomew. King John gave it to Ralph Parmentar on his marriage with the daughter of Peter Fitzalwin.

William Aquilon held the manor by the serjeanty of making certain dishes in the king’s kitchen on the day of his coronation; or by providing someone as his deputy to make a dish called “Girunt,” which appears to have been a stew of almond milk, capons, spices, sugar, and chicken.

The manor passed by marriage from the Aquilons to the Bardolfs, the last of whom joined the insurrection known as the “revolt of the Percies” against Henry IV. in 1404; he was wounded and taken prisoner; dying soon after, his body was quartered and set on the gates of different towns; after a time his widow obtained leave to gather the fragments and bury them.

In 1424 the manor was vested in William Uvedale, and passed by purchase to John Leigh, whose grandson, Nicholas, married Ann, a daughter of Sir Nicholas Carew, and their son, John, first built Addington Place in 1544. The house of the Aquilons on Castle Hill was built about 1400 and pulled down in 1780.

The manor remained with the descendants of the Carews until 1768, when it was purchased by Alderman Trecothick, who

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began to build the house in 1772 ; he died in 1775, and the work was finished by his nephew, who in 1803 sold the property in lots. In 1808 the manor, mansion house, and some of the lands were sold by William Coles to Archbishop Manners-Sutton, and then took the place of the old palace at Croydon ; many additions and alterations were made on the property, which was sold soon after the death of Archbishop Benson in 1896, and is now owned by the trustees of Frederick A. English, Esq., who are lords of the manor.

There is a considerable tract of open ground and woodland between Addington and Shirley, which is now a suburb of Croydon, and best known to the outer world by the poppies of that name, which were first cultivated in his garden here by the Rev. Wm. Wilks the vicar. Addiscombe is now merely a disembodied name among modern streets. It was the seat of the Herons in the sixteenth century ; and there John Evelyn's son-in-law built his great mansion in 1702 "to be one of the best gentleman's houses in Surrey when finished," remarks the diarist. It was afterwards occupied by Chancellor Talbot, Lord Grantham, Lord Liverpool, and then became a military college for the East India Company ; the house was pulled down in 1863 and the land built on.

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Croydon has grown so rapidly into a large town that it could hardly be expected that its development would be governed by wisdom in all its stages. It is described by Nathaniel Spencer in 1771 as "an exceeding handsome, well-built town, and well supplied with all sorts of necessary provisions, . . . great quantities



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of charcoal are made here of wood brought from the neighbouring hills, and sent to London, where it is sold at a considerable advantage ; the weekly market is much frequented on account of the vast quantities of grain sold at it."

Croydon must then have progressed considerably from the condition described in Nicholas Rowe's foolish farce, *The Biter*—"for this Croydon is a most insufferably filthy place," but even at that period "gentlemen of condition" were among its residents.

Though not so numerous as they might have been, there are still some relics of antiquity and a number of picturesque old corners in the lower part of the town ; there is at least one house with a good timber front, and several dating from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries ; perhaps the most interesting of these is the fine brick house, with pilasters, a heavy cornice, and decorated trusses called "Wrencote" ; it seems to me more like the work of Inigo Jones.

I give a drawing of part of the quadrangle of Whitgift's Hospital, and the view is chosen partly because it shows the only ancient chimney - stack remaining, all the others having been rebuilt.

The hospital was founded by Archbishop Whitgift in 1596, "for the maintenance of a warden, schoolmaster, and twenty-eight men and women, or as many more, under forty, as the revenues would admit." The original statutes vest the nomination of the brethren and sisters in the See of Canterbury ; those eligible for election being, first, from the household of the archbishop ; second, from the parishes of Croydon and Lambeth ; third, from parishes in Kent where benefices are annexed to the See ; the number of women not to exceed half that of the men,

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age not under sixty, and each to receive the sum of £5, with wood, corn, and other provisions. The crimes for which they may be expelled include "obstinate heresy, sorcery, any kind of charming or witchcraft."

The buildings occupy a slightly obstructive position, from a tramway and modern municipal point of view, and one can understand, even when they have no sympathy with, the many determined attempts which have been made to have them pulled down. These attempts were, it is to be hoped, finally frustrated in the spring of 1912.

The place provides a pleasant haven for over thirty old people ; built round an open turf-covered square, and entered by an archway from the busy street, the houses are all two storeys in height, with the exception of an additional floor over the entrance and at the opposite side, where a similar archway leads under the wardens' rooms to a very confined space where there are a few strips of flower beds and some sheds and offices ; there was formerly a much larger piece of ground, and it seems a pity that it was built on, as it would have been most useful in providing little plots where the stronger of the pensioners could have employed their idle moments, for, with all their pleasant surroundings, time hangs heavy on the old men's hands. They go out and in as they please, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., returning every now and then from these brief excursions into the busy world to sit and rest.

The men appear to be less socially inclined than the women, and generally have little to say to each other ; probably the domestic duties and tastes of the old ladies occupy a greater space in their lives and leave them with less time and inclination

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to fret ; they all retain their individuality, and the tart reproof by the wives for idle gossiping with strangers (me) adds quite an air of domestic felicity to their cramped surroundings.

No dogs are allowed, the only animal belonging to the community being one fine black cat—an animal of austere and dignified demeanour, as befits the onerous co-operative position which it holds. “A very particular cat,” one old gentleman informed me ; and when required to catch or consume mice when caught, had to be approached with care and humility ; my friend explained that this difficulty was very much increased in early summer ; at that time this feline autocrat’s fancy tended more to the consumption of young sparrows, “they being more succulent.”

The little chapel is panelled with oak, and the seats are still the elm planks originally provided. Among other relics it contains a portrait of the founder, which looks like a very old copy of a better picture, it is painted on a panel, and the design and likeness are too good for the clumsy workmanship shown in the hands and other details ; there are a few pieces of old painted glass ; the doorway is a nineteenth-century absurdity stuck on the face of the wall.

On the left of the archway shown in the drawing is the board-room, with old oak tables made of thick planks with mitred ends ; there are some pieces of old painted glass in the windows, and a few small items of interest ; this, I think, must have been the hall where all the inmates used to dine in common three times every year.

Above this, the warden’s room is a fine apartment with the original panelling ; it contains many deeds, and manuscripts with

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the seals attached, some old books, prints, and photographs relating to the hospital ; the “andirons” are still there, but no longer in use, the open fire having been superseded by a modern grate ; the parlour adjoining also retains the panelling and wood-work in its original condition.

Here and there the exterior shows traces of chequer brick-work, but most of this has vanished during repairs. The school exists, but no longer attached to the hospital, being now housed in a large new building at the north end of the town.

The founder of the hospital appears in dark colours in the pages of history ; he is described by Macaulay as “a narrow-minded, mean, and tyrannical priest, who gained power by servility and adulation, and employed it in persecuting both those who agreed with Calvin about Church government and those who differed from Calvin, touching the doctrine of Reprobation.” It is difficult to find any reason to dissent from this verdict, except that he might have added the foundation of this hospital to the other solitary good deed for which he gives Whitgift credit.

The authority wielded by Parker, Whitgift, and three of his successors was so vast, so utterly despotic, that it became a spiritual tyranny of the most atrocious kind ; and of all these, Whitgift appears to have been the worst ; during his term of office the rack in the Tower was seldom idle, and those who ventured to differ from him were persecuted with a relentless severity, which brought about the migration to Amsterdam that ended with the “Pilgrim Fathers” in the *Mayflower* reaching out toward a new world where they could find peace.

The “Martin Marprelate” tracts galled Whitgift, and made

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him endeavour to gag the Press ; at his instance, in 1585 the Star Chamber passed ordinances for the regulation and reduction of printers ; the Stationers Company were empowered to search for, and seize books, destroy presses, and arrest writers and printers, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London being the sole authorities. He was hypocrite enough to fall on his knees before the newly arrived James I. and say, "that he doubted not His Majesty spoke by the special grace of God."

Such a man would not be troubled by late repentance for ill-deeds done, and the hospital was probably founded merely to perpetuate his name and memory ; and so his good deed lives after him when most of the evil has been forgotten.

The view looking towards the church from Whitgift's hospital is still rather picturesque. The parish church is a large building with a double chancel, three aisles, and a great western tower—in which, and the south porch, there are portions of old work. The church had been almost rebuilt by Archbishop Warham, and had undergone restoration by Gilbert Scott in 1857-59. During a great snowstorm in 1867 the building was set on fire by an overheated flue-pipe, and entirely destroyed, except the walls of the tower. It was rebuilt on somewhat the same lines by the same architect, but the loss was irreparable ; though large and fine, the present church has little more interest than any other modern building.

With one or two exceptions, all the gorgeous memorials perished ; portions of the wreck of the tombs of Archbishops Grindal and Sheldon remain, and Whitgift's tomb was restored in 1888 ; the original effigy had been destroyed. Among those which entirely disappeared were the monuments of

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Archbishops Wake, Potter, and Herring, the Heron family of Addiscombe, Ellis Davy, 1458—the founder of the almshouses—and many others; the brass lectern was saved from the fire. Alexander Barclay, the translator and part author of the *Ship of Fools*, was buried in the churchyard in 1552, but it is not known at what spot.

Until about the middle of the nineteenth century the church stood on an island, surrounded by the head springs of the Wandle, one of these forming a lake in the grounds of the palace; west from the church the water was collected into a dam which drove a calico mill, and so late as 1812 it was possible to catch trout in the stream by the churchyard wall.

The old palace adjoins the churchyard, from which the cross keys and some other devices are still visible in the brickwork, some of these have been darkened with paint and the walls extensively pointed.

The house ceased to be occupied after the death of Archbishop Hutton in 1758, and in 1780, being then greatly out of repair, it was sold and converted into a bleaching and calico-printing factory and a washhouse.

In 1887 it was bought by a committee of which the Duke of Newcastle was chairman, and converted into a girls' school—a rather more honourable use for an historic building.

Originally it is said to have been the manor house, and was altered by Archbishop Stephen Langton, the stout prelate who stood up for English laws and customs against King John. Further alterations were made by Courteney, Arundel, Stafford, Bouchier, Cranmer, Laud, and Juxon.

The house appears to have been first used as a residence by

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Archbishop Kilwardby, but it is not likely that he made many alterations as he was not a building prelate ; indeed, when he was translated to Rome as a Cardinal in 1278, he left the residences belonging to the See in such a state that his successor, Peckham, had to expend three thousand marks in repairing them.

The great hall was rebuilt or repaired by Stafford ; this was the apartment where John Frith was tried for heresy, before Thomas Cromwell and Cranmer ; he refused to change his opinions, and was burned at Smithfield in 1534.

Queen Elizabeth visited Archbishop Parker at Croydon Palace in 1567 and again in 1573, and the acidulated remark to his wife, "Madam I may not call you ; mistress I am ashamed to call you," was made at the conclusion of one of these visits. Elizabeth was always averse to the marriage of priests, and Parker's comment on this attitude had something Pecksniffian about it. "I was in horror to hear such words to come from her mild nature and Christian learned conscience, as she spake concerning God's holy ordinance and institution of matrimony."

His successor, Archbishop Grindal, was too honest and independent for the Queen's taste, and was in consequence sequestered from his office by her for five years ; he received no visits, though she was once again at Croydon, in 1600, when Whitgift was Archbishop.

In 1587 Christopher Hatton was appointed Lord Chancellor of England through the influence of Whitgift, and received the Great Seal in the gallery at Croydon.

The palace and lands were let for forty years to Charles, Earl of Nottingham ; and in 1646 a survey was made for an intended sale by Parliament, but, instead, the estate was granted

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to Sir William Brereton, who had been a general during the Civil War and was one of the Council of State.

After the Restoration, Archbishops Juxon and Herring expended considerable sums in repairs; but later occupants revolted against its damp, unhealthy situation, just as Grindal and Henry VIII. had done.

When Archbishop Abbot cut down the surrounding trees Lord Bacon highly approved of the work. "By my troth he has done very judiciously, for before, methought it was an obscure and dark place, but now he has expounded and cleared it wonderfully well." Such a testimonial from Bacon means a good deal, for he was not a lover of much light, and grumbled vigorously at the new-fangled fashion of larger windows then coming into use.

Less than one-half of the quadrangle formed by the palace now remains, and most of it has been so patched and repaired that the old work is fragmentary, showing how soon a building deteriorates from neglect. I have drawn the chapel, which has suffered also, but is still one of the most characteristic portions. In this chapel Miles Coverdale was made Bishop of Exeter in 1551; Grindal consecrated three bishops here, and Cranmer, assisted by Ridley, two.

The two sets of almshouses near the church have both been rebuilt, and have no architectural features; the "Little Almshouses" were originally built about 1528, and Ellis Davy's almshouses were founded in 1447. Davy was a citizen and mercer of London, and his regulations for the inmates were rather severe.

"They were to wear easy price cloth of dark and brown,



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and not staring or blazing, attend divine service in Croydon Church daily, and there pray upon their knees for the King, in three pater nosters, three aves, and a credo ; with special and hearty recommendations of the founder to God and the Virgin Mary ; and for the estate of all the souls aforesaid, daily at their convenience, one ave, fifteen pater nosters, and three credos ; and after the death of the founder, they and their successors shall appear daily before his tomb, and there say the psalm *De Profundis*, or three pater nosters, three aves, and a credo.” Somehow it strikes one that this mercer had a little uneasiness in his conscience.

The Croydon Bourne or “ Woe Water ” formerly flowed into the Wandle near the church ; this phenomenal outbreak of water was regarded with great awe for many centuries, presaging, it was thought, unhappy times in store, and the belief has by no means entirely died out, though its origin is now fairly well understood as arising from the rainfall soaking into the chalk strata of the Downs, and then by slow gravitation breaking out in the Caterham and Marden Park valley, and running downwards to the river Wandle. Mr. Lathom has devoted much study to this flow, and is able to foretell where and when it will come forth ; last winter his prediction was only a few hours late, and a very short distance from the actual spot.

Since 1850 it has been intercepted by the sewers high up in the valley, but formerly its course was a destructive one all the way to Croydon.

In Warkworth's Chronicle an outbreak in 1473 is referred to as presaging pestilence, battle, or famine ; Aubrey mentions it as foreshadowing the Great Plague and the Restoration ; as it has flowed during the last two seasons, some of the residents

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think it must refer to the Insurance Act, and do not look forward with any enthusiasm to the next parliamentary manifestation.

Mr. Lathom has pointed out that local dearth might follow these outbreaks owing to the fertilising matter being washed out of the soil.

The colliers or charcoal burners of Croydon were long a subject for the wit of poets and playwrights, but these concern the modern town no more ; the population now approaches two hundred thousand, and the authorities still ache to widen their boundaries and increase the number of the inhabitants.

Some of their earlier struggles towards opulence were not altogether fortunate ; in 1806 a large amount of the common land was sold in order to provide funds for the erection of a court-house, and rumour says something of the same kind was done about twenty years ago in order to build an expensive town hall ; there is little question as to which would have been the most valuable possession in the twentieth century.

The parish is large, extending from the Lambeth boundary to Coulsdon, from the Kent border to Beddington ; and contains many villages, hamlets, and several manors. The manor of Croydon has been owned by the See of Canterbury since the Conquest, if not before that time. Waddon was Crown land, given in 1127 by Henry I. to the monastery of Bermondsey, and added to Croydon by Courteney in 1391. Benchesham, north of the town, was held by Peter Chaceport in 1253, and was granted to Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of London, in 1299 ; it was still attached to that diocese in 1338 ; in 1368 it was held by Walter Whitehorse, the King's shield bearer—his name remains in White Horse Road ; about the beginning of the

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sixteenth century Sir Robert Morton was the owner, and it remained with his descendants until 1712, when four-fifths were sold to John Barrett, whose grandson acquired the remaining share in 1787, afterwards selling the whole estate to John Cator; in the early years of the nineteenth century John D. Smith became the owner. Croham was purchased by Walter Whitehorse in 1368 from the Chireton family; in 1400 it belonged to the Crown, and was held by William Oliver; in the time of Henry VII. it was held by Dame Anne Peche, and in the time of Henry VIII. by Sir John Danett in right of his wife, a daughter of Thomas Elmebrygge, who had been his ward; Sir John was a city gentleman who obtained a knighthood on the strength of his wife's estate; the manor afterwards passed to Sir Olliph Leigh of Addington, from whom it was purchased by Archbishop Whitgift. The manor of Haling has already been noticed. The manor of Norbury was granted to Nicholas Carew of Beddington in 1375, and remained in the possession of his descendants until the execution of Sir Nicholas in 1539, when it was annexed to the Honour of Hampton Court. Edward VI. exchanged Norbury and Pyrlemead in Croydon for other property held by the Archbishops of Canterbury; but Queen Mary restored the estate to the Carews in 1555, and it afterwards followed the descent of the Beddington property.

The stretch of forest land known as Norwood, of which eight hundred and thirty acres belonged to Croydon, was the principal source of income for the people of that village; there they had herbage for all manner of cattle, mastage for swine, without stint, and coppice wood for burning into charcoal. The common is no more, except in patches of recreation ground,

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and the forest is only recalled by such names as Woodside and Selhurst.

Oliver Cromwell was the first to interfere with common rights here, on the plea that the district was a harbour for thieves, robbers, and evil-doers ; from that time the usual process went on, here and there a bit was enclosed, until at last there is very little left—for the commoner.

There is no doubt that the various orders against building new houses in the vicinity of London had considerable effect ; they were issued from time to time before 1580, when Queen Elizabeth forbade the erection of any new buildings within three miles of the city gates, and that no more than one family should inhabit each house already built. Three years later this order was widened by the inclusion of Westminster, and also that commons within three miles of both should not be enclosed.

These ordinances were replete with the common sense of the time, and were meant to protect the water supply—then entirely obtained from springs and ditches—and the supplies of food and fuel. Thames water was not used until 1594, and Hugh Myddleton did not bring the New River to Clerkenwell until 1613. Cattle, sheep, pigs, and geese had to be driven by shocking roads into London, and the greater the distance these and the woodcutters and charcoal burners had to traverse, so was the price and scarcity increased. As time went on, the forbidden radius was extended to ten miles, and this explains the scarcity of great houses within that distance of the city, while just beyond there was almost a continuous belt of them. Manor houses and farmhouses there were, but the mansions of noblemen or great merchants were few until near the end of the seventeenth

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century ; by that time the growth of skirting villages and market gardens had made the nearer sites less desirable ; the three-mile radius became almost exclusively urban, and, as roads were improved, the wealthy men settled themselves in the outer belt, in the Lea valley, the Essex Marshes, by disforested Enfield Chase, Edgware, Harrow, Brentford, Mitcham, Croydon, Bromley, and Eltham ; there they had rural surroundings and the position of country gentlemen ; land was cheaper and bits of common more easily seized and enclosed.

The eighteenth century brought many ups and downs in fortune caused by speculation, such as the South Sea Company ; and by the end of it many of the great mansions were too large for their owners ; one portion after another of their houses fell to decay and were pulled down ; acre after acre was lopped off the park lands ; the Home Park was thrown into the land of the farm, and the owners drew themselves within the narrower space of their old walled gardens—some of these the most beautiful things ever created by the hands of men, and often much older than the existing houses ; generation after generation has assisted nature, while time and association have given them an old-world air of enchantment that pervades every nook and corner of their bounds.

Now the pressure of the human swarm is proving too strong for most of them ; the tall brick walls are rent to pieces and incorporated in the walls of modern villas, the trees are hacked down, and the steam-roller snorts back and forth, laying new streets where once were velvet lawns among the clipped yew hedges. A faint memory may be enshrined in the name of a suburban street, and probably in another generation that will be

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regarded as a fanciful change made by some builder who was tired of myrtle groves and acacia avenues.

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A little distance west from Croydon there is a bridle path by the side of the Wandle to Beddington, past Waddon Mill—the first of the many still existing on this hard-worked stream—the large mill pond, and all the way by the riverside is pretty, and in some places quite picturesque ; a little lower there is another flour mill, a new building erected on the site of a snuff mill formerly at work here ; then for a time the bed of the stream becomes a cart-road, with a raised footpath on one side, and is crossed by a new bridge leading into Beddington Lane ; below this the path turns aside by some water-cress beds, and passes by Church Green—where there are one or two old cottages, rather decayed, and a few new ones—across the fields by the old garden wall of Beddington Park to the church.

This was restored and a north aisle added in 1852, and it was further enlarged in 1869 ; in 1829 the tower was found to be in a dangerous state, and was partly rebuilt ; ten years later much repair had to be done to the roof, but all this has been well done, and the church retains much of the character and work of the original building, towards the erection of which Nicholas de Carew bequeathed £20 in 1390. The Carew Chapel, shown in the drawing, projecting at the south-east end, was built about 1425 ; part of the mansion appears beyond the church. There is one large yew tree, but all the great elms surrounding the churchyard have been polled or broken by storms ; the massive trunks and lower branches remain



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fresh and full of leaf, casting their shadows over the grey tombstones that huddle near the church as if for warmth and comfort.

The interior of the building is as well cared for as the outside ; the font is a square block of stone supported by a centre shaft, with slender columns at the angles ; the pulpit has linen fold panels, and probably dates from about 1600.

The Carew Chapel contains many monuments to members of that family and their successors ; it is divided from the aisle and chancel by a screen of old woodwork ; there is a fine three-light window in the chapel, and one of five lights in the chancel ; four of the choir stalls are old, and probably those provided for the "four fit chaplains" mentioned in the will of Sir Nicholas de Carew, "who should pray for his soul, and all Christian souls, in the church of Beddington, one of them forever, and the others for five years" ; the will was proved in 1390 ; the chapel itself appears to be his only memorial. For the second Sir Nicholas there is a full-length brass on a marble slab, showing him and his first wife, Isabella, under an elaborate canopy ; his hair is closely cropped and his feet rest on a dog ; she wears a folded headdress, and a very small dog rests on the hem of her robe ; the date of the inscription is 1432. A smaller brass shows Philippa Carew, with thirteen small figures ; it is not clear whether these are children, or brothers and sisters. In the chapel is the table tomb of Sir Richard Carew and his wife, Malyn, said to be a daughter of Sir Robert Oxenbridge ; his mother was Eleanor Oxenbridge ; the brasses have gone, and the inscription is defaced, but the date of his death can be read as 23rd May 1520 ; the date for Dame Malyn may not have been cut ; there are traces of colour on the tomb—red, green, and white.

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The monument of Sir Francis Carew is a long altar tomb with columns of black marble supporting an entablature, with a full-length figure of alabaster in full armour ; in front, carved in high relief, are small figures of a man in armour, a lady wearing a ruff and a long cloak, with five boys and two girls. These represent Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, *alias* Carew, who erected the monument in memory of "his deare and well deserving unckle," Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of Sir George More of Losely, and their children—Francis, Nicholas, George, Edmund, Olliphe, Elizabeth, and Marie. The inscription reads : " Here resteth Sir Francis Carew, knight, sonne and heire of Sir Nicholas Carew, . . . Master of the Horse and Privy Councillor to King Henry VIII. The said Sir Francis, living unmarried, adopted Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, sonne of Anne Throckmorton, his sister, to be heire of his estate and bear his surname, 1611."

There is a monument to Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell Carew, who died in 1834 ; he commanded the *Swiftsure* at the battle of the Nile, and afterwards presented Nelson with the coffin made from the mainmast of *L'Orient*, which he used to have placed behind his chair in his state room ; there are also memorials to William Gee and Ann Paston Gee. On the north wall of the church there is a brass plate to Thomas Greenhill, "steward to y^e noble S^r Nicholas Carew of Beddington, 1633," with a punning epitaph indifferent in taste and poor in composition.

The ancient home of the Carews is close to the church ; the origin of the family appears to be a matter of some doubt ; though the name is in the Roll of Battle Abbey as one of those who accompanied William to England, the features shown on the

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oldest brass here, though rudely cut, have more of an Oriental cast than any of the early descendants of Normans whom we can identify. I am informed that the name is not uncommon among the natives on the north-west frontier of India.

There is little trace of the family after the Conquest, until the name appears at Beddington in the fourteenth century.

There were two manors here, and a doubtful third one belonging to the Archbishop of Nazareth, which was probably some land, and the chapel near Wallington, pulled down in 1790.

Home Beddington was held by Robert de Wateville—six hundred acres of arable land, twenty-four of meadow, a church, two mills, sixteen villeins, fourteen cottars, and five bondmen. In 1159 Sibyl de Wateville and Ingelram de Fonteneys gave the advowson to the priory of Bermondsey; towards the close of the twelfth century the lands were held by the Crown, and a portion of them was given by Richard I. to William de Eys; at the death of his son, Eustace, the land reverted to the Crown, and in 1245 was granted by Henry III. to Raymund de Laik and his heirs, to be held by the service of providing a wooden cross-bow at Pentecost. His daughter and heiress died in 1262, leaving a son, John de Rogers, whose legitimacy was disputed, but he obtained the estate, and died in 1302 without issue; again the lands reverted to the Crown. Edward I. in the same year granted them to Thomas Corbet, his valet; the Corbets held possession until 1339, when the estate passed to Thomas de Merle, and from him to Thomas de Willoughby, whose only daughter, Lucy, married—first, Sir Thomas Huscarle, and, second, Nicholas Carew, who, about 1360, bought the land from his wife's father.

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Beddington Huscarle at the Domesday Survey was held by Milo Crispin — six hundred acres of arable land, twenty of meadow, thirteen villeins, and thirteen cottars. In the twelfth century the manor was held by the Huscarles—a Saxon name, which probably implied some position of dignity, such as steward in the King's household. In 1321 Beatrice Huscarle was in possession; in 1348 a licence was granted to Sir Thomas Huscarle and Lucy, his wife, to have a private chapel in their manor house at Beddington; after the death of Sir Thomas, Nicholas Carew married the widow, and subsequently obtained all the property of the two manors.

In 1362 he was one of the Knights of the Shire, in 1372 Keeper of the Privy Seal, and was one of the executors under the will of Edward III.; he died in 1390, and left directions that he should be buried between the grave of his brother, John, and the south door of the Church of St. Mary at Beddington.

He left to his daughter, Margaret Turbevyle, one hundred marks; to his daughter, Lucie, prioress of Rusper, £10; to Joan Huscarle, a nun, forty shillings; and the rest of his property between his son, Nicholas, and Nicholas de Mockyng.

His son, Nicholas, was Knight of the Shire in 1392 and 1401; he represented the county in several parliaments, and before his death in 1432 had added many acres to his lands, as he then owned manors and estates in eighteen parishes in Surrey. His eldest son being dead, he was succeeded by his second son, Nicholas, who was Sheriff of Surrey in 1441, and married Margaret, daughter of Sir Roger Fiennes, by whom he had two sons—Nicholas and James; the former succeeded him in 1458, and died in 1466, leaving one son, who died without issue, and

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the estates descended to Richard Carew, the only son of James.

Richard was made a knight banneret at the battle of Blackheath in 1497; he was Sheriff of Surrey in 1501, and held the office of Lieutenant of Calais in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII.; he died in 1520 and was buried in Beddington Church. His son, Sir Nicholas, became Lieutenant of Calais at his father's death; from a youth he had been a companion and favourite of Henry VIII., and partook in all his jousts, tournaments, masques, and diversions; he was made Master of the Horse, and Knight of the Garter; yet he was implicated in the conspiracy to set Cardinal Pole upon the throne, and after a summary trial he, with the Marquis of Exeter, Henry Pole, Sir Edward Neville, and others, was executed on Tower Hill in 1538 (according to Grafton), and was buried in St. Botolph's, Aldersgate, where other members of his family had been buried. Fuller, however, disbelieves in his having any share in the conspiracy, and gives as the cause of his downfall the family tradition, "How King Henry, then at bowls, gave the knight opprobrious language, to which the other returned an answer more true than discretionary. . . . The King, who in this kind, would give and not take, being no good fellow in tart repartees, was so highly offended thereat, that Sir Nicholas fell from the top of his favour to the bottom of his displeasure and was bruised to death thereby."

The forfeited estates were entrusted to Sir Michael Stanhope, and afterwards granted for life to Walter Gorges, who died in 1553, when they were regranted to Lord D'Arcy, Lord Chamberlain, in exchange for lands and manors in Essex. Francis, the only son of Sir Nicholas Carew, obtained some

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favour in the service of Queen Mary, and she restored his inheritance in 1554; but, to make sure, he took a new conveyance by purchase from Lord D'Arcy.

He then began the erection of a new mansion at Beddington, which was described as magnificent; but John Evelyn in 1658 described it as "a scrambling house," though he admired the fine old hall.

Sir Francis had long to wait for a visit from Queen Elizabeth, but towards the end of her life she came here on two occasions—in 1599 and in 1600; he was then a man of seventy, and could entertain her with no gallantries, but instead, he gave her a feast of cherries, "at least a month after all cherries had taken their farewell of England"; this miracle he performed by erecting a tent over the tree, and keeping the canvas damp, "so by withholding the sunbeams from reflecting on the berries, they grew great; . . . and when he was assured of Her Majesty's coming, he removed the tent, and a few sunny days brought them to their full maturity."

As the dates in both years nearly coincide—18th and 16th of August—it seems probable that a desire for cherries was the moving impulse on each occasion; both visits were made from Nonsuch, four miles away, and each lasted three days—long enough to dispose of all the ripe fruit in the garden, which in those days was already famous, though the orange trees were not yet bearing fruit. When the Earl of Dorset wrote to Sir Francis begging some asparagus, myrtle and orange trees he did not mention the fruit. According to Aubrey, these orange trees—the first seen in England—were brought from Italy by Sir Francis; but the family tradition was that they

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were raised from seed brought by Sir Walter Raleigh. Evelyn in 1658 does not refer to either tradition, but describes them as "now overgrown trees, planted in the ground and secured in winter by a tabernacle of boards and stoves." In 1690 they were thirteen feet high, and at least ten thousand oranges were gathered from them; they continued to flourish until the winter of 1739-40, when frost and neglect utterly destroyed them.

Sir Francis Carew died unmarried in 1611 at the age of eighty-one, and bequeathed his estates to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, the youngest son of his sister, Anne, whom he had adopted and who assumed the name and arms of Carew; he died in 1644, and his son in 1649; the last male Carew of this line died in 1762, leaving the estates in trust for his only surviving daughter, who was to receive the net rental while she remained unmarried, but on her death or marriage the estates were to devolve on the eldest and other sons of his cousin, John Fountain, Dean of York, in tail male, with the remainder to Richard Gee of Orpington, a descendant of Philippa Carew, aunt of the testator.

Miss Carew died unmarried in 1769. Mr. Fountain died in 1780, before he was twenty-five years old—the age when the inheritance would have come to him—and the estates went to Richard Gee in 1780, who then assumed the name and arms of Carew; he died unmarried in 1816, leaving the entire property to the widow of his brother, William Gee; she died in 1828 without issue, and bequeathed all her estates in Kent and Surrey to Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell; the gallant seaman was then sixty-eight, and, when told of his good fortune, said, "Half as much twenty years ago had indeed been a blessing, but now I

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am old and crank." He died six years later, and the estates were left entailed on his son, Captain Charles Hallowell, and his brothers and their heirs.

During the many changes of ownership the house was neglected; even so early as 1700 when revisited by Evelyn he notes, "a noble old structure . . . but now decaying; the first orange trees that had been seen in England, standing a hundred and twenty years, large and goodly trees, and laden with fruit, now in decay, as well as the grotto, fountains, cabinets, and other curiosities in the house and abroad, it being now fallen to a child under age, and only kept by a servant or two from utter dilapidation; the estate and park about it also in decay." Sixty-eight years had elapsed since Evelyn's earliest visit to Beddington, mentioned in the first detailed note in his diary; the child who was owner in 1700 was the Nicholas Carew, created a baronet by Queen Anne, who pulled down the house of his ancestors and erected another in 1709; he retained the great Hall and incorporated it in the new work, which was said to be a good example of the domestic architecture of the period, and stood until 1865.

One of the owners in the first half of the nineteenth century contracted debts to the amount of £300,000, and an Act of Parliament was passed in 1857 vesting the property in trustees, who had to sell the most of it in order to discharge the debt.

The mansion, with twenty-one acres of land, was purchased in 1865 for the Female Orphan Asylum, which was removed here from Lambeth. The Queen Anne house was then practically rebuilt, but once more the Hall was saved and became part of the new building, and, except that the lower part was repanelled in 1709, it is unaltered. The beautiful open timber roof was

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copied by Cardinal Wolsey when he erected the hall at Hampton Court ; this, some outbuildings, the Carew Chapel, a pair of gates and some of the garden walls are all that remain of ancient days.

I have detailed the various expedients which were adopted to keep the name and property together, but no legal instrument is fool proof, and so, after six hundred years, the noble name and goodly heritage passed away.

Sir Walter Raleigh had a small estate at Mitcham, and had considerable association with the house of the Carews ; his wife was a daughter of Sir Francis Throckmorton of Carshalton, niece of Sir Francis Carew, and sister of his heir ; and his son was named Carew.

While James I. was visiting Beddington in 1603 Sir Walter had his last formal interview with the new King, whom he deeply offended by advocating a war with Spain. After his execution Lady Raleigh pleaded with her brother "that he would be pleased to let me bury the worthy body of my noble husband in your church at Beddington" ; it is not known if the request was refused, but the worldly wisdom of such a refusal is quite evident ; whether the King harboured resentment at the dead man, or was galled at the recollection of his own scurvy dealings with him, his feeling remained adverse all his life long.

There is a path across Beddington Park to Hackbridge ; it is now pasture land, with many fine old elms and horse chestnuts, and through it the Wandle runs, crossing beneath the path and vanishing into the autumn-tinted woods ; here, and at one or two other points, this brook is one of the three or four pretty streams in Surrey ; the others are—the Tillingbourne, through all its course from Wotton Woods to Shalford ; the Wey, from

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Frensham to Tilford ; and some stretches of the Pip Brook. Like these, this is still a clear, unpolluted stream, and one may watch the infrequent trout sucking down gnats, or rising with a splash after larger game within nine miles of Westminster Bridge, eight of them already covered with bricks and mortar ; even now the builder is knocking at the gates, and if there is wisdom in man, he ought to be kept out, for this open space will be sadly wanted in another generation. I have made the drawing from the footpath bridge.

Outside the park we are amongst the modern cottages of Hackbridge, formerly a hamlet with a few old houses and no history, but now growing rapidly in the usual suburban fashion around the railway station. At the western end there are fine trees and a pretty view from the bridge, where the Wandle, now joined by the streams from Carshalton, has grown a river, and for a time flows through private grounds, at Beddington Corner it comes once more into the open, and drives two mills, and thence through all its course, these follow in rapid succession.

Below this the effluent stream from the Croydon sewage farm joins the river ; it forms a considerable brook, and is certainly clear, but it bears on its surface the characteristic flecks of foam seen on all soiled water, and the further beauties of the Wandle depend entirely on atmosphere and accidental lights.

Beddington Corner has a fringe of houses round a large open green ; on the east is the flat plain extending to Croydon, formerly almost entirely devoted to the cultivation of herbs and flowers, but since 1871 this has been a sewage farm ; it was the first of its kind, and is a great undertaking ; without it modern Croydon would be impossible.



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The land extends to more than six hundred acres, mostly under grass, which is said to yield five crops a year, and has a sombre beauty of its own, especially on a wet, misty evening in autumn when the hedgerow elms fade in subtle planes of grey into the distant horizon.

During the making of these works there was discovered between Beddington Lane—which traverses the middle of the space—and Hackbridge railway station the foundations of a large Roman villa, with its outhouses, built of brick, flints, and mortar, about two feet below the surface ; Roman bricks were used as bonding courses in the inner walls ; many fragments of Samian ware, a bronze head, and coins of Commodus, Constantine, and Claudius were found. About five hundred yards to the south, several skeletons, urns, iron knives, a spear head, and the boss of a shield were dug up ; these were believed to be Saxon, but the ground was not investigated further. In 1874 some labourers digging gravel in another part found the remains of a Roman soldier who had been buried in his armour, with his arms beside him ; bronze spear heads, a mould, and an ingot of metal have been found in Beddington Park.

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East from the railway the great open space of Mitcham Common still remains untouched and beautiful, though electric tramways have stolen its silence, and it is pervaded by golfers, who here, as elsewhere, in their earnest pursuit of a good game, display an irritating tendency to regard the public as a nuisance which ought to be abolished—an attitude rendered more absurd

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by the fact that most of the players do not reside in the district at all.

Mitcham town or village tends rapidly to become one of the modern suburbs of London. There is still a considerable industry in growing and distilling lavender, roses, peppermint, and other aromatic and medicinal herbs and flowers ; but the increase of houses and factories is driving that work farther afield, and the air can no longer be so famous for its salubrity as it was when Dr. Fothergill dubbed it the Montpelier of England ; then, its principal industries were the printing of calico and silk ; now there are factories for floorcloth, felt, varnish, leather, and other things that do not smell so sweet ; the manufacture of tobacco and snuff still keeps its place, as it should do on land once owned by Sir Walter Raleigh ; but the fragrant aroma of these is somewhat obscured by that of ground cork and hot linseed oil. The land has been developed, as it is called, in a haphazard way which forms a striking example of how this ought not to be done ; and the result is an uninteresting jumble of houses and factories which have swept away everything of interest, and, as far as possible, everything of beauty ; only memories remain, but some of these are worthy of record.

At the Domesday Survey the manors of Michelham and Witford were held by the canons of Bayeux ; in 1338, when Edward III. declared war against France, he confiscated all estates held by foreign ecclesiastics in England, and gave Mitcham to the priory of St. Mary Overey in Southwark.

After the suppression of that monastery the manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Nicholas Spakman and Christopher Harbottle, citizens of London. By them it was conveyed in the

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following year to Nicholas Burton of Carshalton ; the manor was sold by his grandson, Sir Henry Burton, in 1619 to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, the adopted son of Sir Francis Carew. It was settled by his son, Sir Francis, in 1645, on his daughter, Rebecca, when she married Thomas Temple ; two years afterwards, in conjunction with his son-in-law, Sir Francis mortgaged the estate to Thomas Hammond, and in 1657 it was sold to Robert Cranmer, a London merchant, said to be a descendant of Archbishop Cranmer, who two years later purchased the manor house, and the estate remained with his descendants until 1809 ; the house became dilapidated, and was rebuilt in 1822. William Simpson, Esq., is now lord of the manor of Mitcham.

The manors of Biggin and Tamworth were owned by Fitz Ansculf, and by the Clares from whom they were held by Merton Priory. Henry VIII. granted them to Robert Wylford and his wife, Joan, who afterwards married John, Lord Mordaunt ; but at a later time the manors reverted to the two daughters of her first husband, Robert Wylford ; one daughter married Henry Whitney, who purchased the other share and sold the whole to Sir Francis Carew in 1583 ; by him it was sold in 1603 to Sir John Caryl ; but was repurchased in 1614 by Sir Nicholas Carew, and conveyed by his son in trust for Edward Thurland of Reigate, whose descendants held it until 1744, when John Manship became the owner ; it was sold by his son in 1749 to James Moore, a famous grower of herbs. Messrs. Beaumont and Sons are now the lords of the combined manors.

The manor of Ravensbury is supposed to be the same as the

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manor of Witford mentioned in the Domesday Record ; it was then held of Fitz Ansculf by William the Chamberlain. Early in the thirteenth century it was held by Alexander de Witford ; in 1250 it had passed to William de la Mare, and from his descendants it was purchased by Sir Nicholas Carew in 1375.

Sir John Burgersh held lands within the manor of Ravensbury in 1392, and John Arundel, his son-in-law, held the manor in 1424. In the reign of Henry VII. it was owned by John de la Pole, and after his attainder, by Simon Digby ; subsequently it became the property of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and by him it was sold to Sir Nicholas Carew in 1531 ; it was afterwards transferred in the same manner as Beddington. Hippersley Cox, Esq., is now lord of the manor.

Sir Walter Raleigh had a house, with a small estate in Mitcham, which had been the marriage portion of his wife ; when he was released from the Tower in 1615 he sold the estate for £2500, and used the money to provide funds for his expedition to Guiana ; the house stood at the corner of Wykford Lane until about the middle of the nineteenth century, and latterly was occupied as a boarding school.

Sir Julius Cæsar, Master of the Rolls, owned a house in the village which had been the property of his wife ; this gentleman, who was described as “not only one of the best civilians, but also one of the best men of his time,” claimed descent from the Duke of Cæsarini of Italy, and designed his own monument, which may still be seen in the church of Great St. Helens, Bishopsgate. Like many other wealthy men of the time, he coveted the expensive honour of a visit from Queen Elizabeth ; five previous disappointments only whetted his desire, and at last

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the lady arrived, supped, lodged, and dined next day. "I presented her with a gown of cloth of silver richly embroidered, a black network mantle with pure gold, a taffeta hat, white, with several flowers, and a jewel of gold set therein with diamonds and rubies; Her Majesty removed from my house after dinner to Nonsuch with exceeding good contentment."

One hardly knows whether it was with pride, or ruefully, that he calculated the cost at £700 sterling, "besides my own provisions and what was sent by my friends." Still, Sir Julius lived forty-one years afterwards to boast about it, and, after all, it worked out much cheaper than the entertainment provided for the Queen by Sir John Puckering at Kew four years previously; perhaps that gentleman overdid it, as she returned again twelve months later—no such misfortune happened at Mitcham, but one may wonder if Sir Julius was not the original of the man in Donne's satire, who squeaked, "O sir, 'tis sweet to talk of kings."

John Donne lived for some time at Mitcham before 1620, probably after the death of his friend, Sir Francis Wolley of Pirford, "in poverty and ill-health"; the latter may be granted, but the poverty was comparative; by that time he had become one of the most celebrated preachers in England—certainly an emotional one, as described by his friend, Izaak Walton, "weeping sometimes for his auditory, sometimes with them; always preaching to himself like an angel from a cloud, but in none."

His oft-quoted letter from "my hospital at Mitcham, where there is not one person besides myself in my house well. . . . I flatter myself in this, that I am dying too," may be partly explained by poor health; but it also reveals the mental attitude of the man, who in his finest flights of poetry could

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never cease to think of death and graves, and always saw the skull behind the rosy lips of the sweetest maid.

The parish church is now of little interest. The old building was damaged by lightning in 1637, and again about 1790; the only part of this remaining is the base of the tower; the present church was rebuilt of brick and covered with cement about 1821; some of the old monuments were replaced, but others mentioned by Aubrey have disappeared; the only one of note is that of Sir Ambrose Crowley, an alderman of London, who was satirised by Steele as having taken a novel method of checking bribery at the elections in the Queen Hithe ward, by promising to give each elector who voted for him a chaldron—thirty-six bushels—of good coal.

The members of the Cranmer family have been good friends to the parish, and a donation by Henry Smith in 1626 disposes of the fable that Mitcham was the only parish in Surrey that did not benefit under his will owing to his ill-treatment there.

Figges Marsh, at the north end of the village, retains the name of William Figge, who in the fourteenth century held lands from the King “by the service of finding a pound in which to keep his distresses”; he appears to have been collector of the revenue from the forfeited lands of the Canons of Bayeux.

Two fine old mansions in or near Mitcham are mentioned by various writers about the middle of the nineteenth century, but these do not exist now, so far as I can discover.

Brayley mentions one, conjectured to have been occupied by Henry Strete in 1348 and afterwards by the Illingworths, containing a chapel; the proprietors of this house always claimed a right to the north aisle of the church. Lewis notes another,

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still older, dating from the reign of Edward II., containing some carving of Elizabethan date, and some by Grinling Gibbons, which was once the residence of Peter Waldo.

Leaving the village by the path across the marshes west of the church, the low rumble of a water-wheel betokens a mill at work, and the fragrance shows that it is grinding snuff; thence towards Morden, the road following the boundary of Mitcham Grove—an estate given by Lord Clive to Alexander Wedderburn (afterwards Lord Chancellor Loughborough) as part payment for the successful defence of his administration in India before the House of Commons committee. The gift may have been the measure of Clive's gratitude or of his necessity.

Morden Church still stands in the open country, with only a few houses near it. Before the Conquest the manor belonged to the Abbey of Westminster, and was retained until that monastery was dissolved. It was granted by Edward VI. to Lionel Duckett and Edward Whitchurch; from them it was purchased by Richard Garth in 1553, and remained with his descendants until recent years. G. E. Hatfeild is now lord of the manor and one of the principal landowners.

The church was rebuilt at the expense of Richard Garth in 1636; it is of red brick throughout, but the fourteenth-century windows of stone were replaced in the newer building.

There are many monuments to members of the Garth family, and a grave-slab in the chancel to Richard Garth, who died in 1639; on the south wall an elaborate monument to Clara Lowndes, wife of Peter Leheup, 1773, there is a large monument with a bust and two urns on the north wall, to her husband; an elaborate mural tablet to Elizabeth Gardiner, daughter of

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George Garth, who gave the land, built the school, and endowed it; a shield-shaped mural monument to John Roland, 1691, Elizabeth, his wife, and other members of the Roland family. Other names recorded are Hoare, Jones, Hughes, Burrell, 1704; Greenwell, 1633.

There is a small brass in the nave to Ann, daughter of Thomas and Eilen —, 1623; a slab with four brasses to Thomas Hicks, citizen and merchant of London, 1634; one with a Latin inscription to William Booth, 1670; another to Edward Booth, 1682; and under the reading-desk a brass to Jane Duffield, wife of George Garth, 1609.

The pulpit is dated on one of the panels 1720, with the initials E. C.; it retains the soundboard—one of the few left in Surrey; the altar rails with twisted pillars are probably of the same date. On the front of the organ gallery the names of the various benefactors to the parish are painted, headed by Henry Smith, who gave twenty shillings annually from an estate in Bexhill in 1625; two others—John Francis Fuller and Owen Putland Meyrick—provide for the distribution of meat and peas among the poor, and one, Mrs. Clara Meyrick, for the distribution of blankets at Christmas.

Some of the painted glass in the old church is said to have been spoil from Merton Abbey, and the commandments inscribed on the east window are quaint in spelling—

“Thou shalt not Couet
thy naighbours house.
Thou shalt not couet
thy naighbours wife
Nor his seruante, nor his mayd
Nor his oxe, nor his asse
Nor any thing that is his.”

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The large estate north-west from the church, known as Morden Park, was first enclosed by John Ewart, and held on lease from Mr. Garth, towards the end of the eighteenth century ; he built the house and laid out the grounds, but for some reason tired of the place, and in 1788 bought Bysshe Court in the parish of Horne, where he pulled down the old manor house and built a new one, afterwards selling his interest in Morden Park to Thomas Conway ; it was afterwards owned by Mr. Polhill, Mr. Ridge, Sir William E. Baker, and is now the residence of John Wormald, Esq.

The village of Morden is nearly a mile from the church, and near the old manor house Morden Hall, pleasantly situated, with large grounds through which the Wandle flows ; the high brick wall screening it from the road was probably erected by one of the Garths in the seventeenth century, but, judging from its exterior, the house appears to have been rebuilt about the close of the eighteenth century. About 1850 it was occupied as a school, but is now the residence of G. E. Hatfeild, Esq.

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A lane passing westward by Morden Hall Farm leads through new-laid streets, which still await the houses, and on towards Merton Church, where a pleasant modern suburb has been built on the verge of that tangle of dwellings which extends unbroken to Wimbledon and to London—a land where all the inhabitants appear to be new arrivals, having very hazy ideas about the existence of an old parish church, or its situation. After a time, an old man working on the roads directed me ; he

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had been married there, fifty years ago, and, though he did not say whether he had been there since, he spoke of the "old church" with an affection that told in favour of the partner he had then taken for life.

The church stands in a corner, with a large sunny graveyard surrounded by old elms and studded with many tombstones; it has been much restored, inside and out; two old windows remain, though much defaced by time; the Norman doorway on the north side has probably been taken down and rebuilt, but the door of rough-hewn planks of oak, strapped with finely designed old ironwork, is probably the original door of the church built by Gilbert the Norman, Sheriff of Surrey, about 1120.

The porch has much small carving of a design so fine that some of the effect is lost; it dates from the beginning of the fifteenth century; there is a timber belfry and a small shingled spire. A brass tablet records that the south aisle windows were erected "To the glory of God in thanksgiving for the incarnation of His Son, and in affectionate memory of John Innes—by his friends and neighbours, to commemorate his long and beneficent association with this parish, from 1865 to 1904."

There is a fine monument of coloured marbles, with gold and colour added, to Gregory Lovell of Merton Abbey, Esquier, Cofferer to Her Majesty's household, second son to Sir Francis Lovell of Harringe in Norfolk; and his two wives and children. The figure of Lovell, wearing a ruff and cloak, kneels, with his two wives facing him; below his figure kneel three sons and one daughter; below the wives, five sons.

Mural tablets and other memorials record the names of

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Edward Rayne of West Barns Park (the name survives in Rayne's Park), his wife, and members of his family ; George Bond, 1792, and Eleanor, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Chitty, 1797 ; Sir Thomas Robinson of Rokeby, 1777, and his mother, 1730 ; Henry Meriton, gentleman of the privy chamber to George II., 1757 ; Sir Henry Stapylton, 1679 ; Judith, widow of Edward Wilson of Didlyngton, Norfolk, 1745 ; and William Bayes, land surveyor of the Customs in three reigns, 1717.

The monument erected by Mrs. Elizabeth Cook is not to her husband ; it has a finely sculptured female figure, with four wreaths above, bearing the names of Rear-Admiral Isaac Smith, Isaac Cragg Smith, Caroline Cragg Smith, and Charles Smith.

The inscription reads, " Sacred to the memory of those whose names are here recorded, and whose remains are deposited in the family vault adjoining. . . . Erected by Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, widow of Captain James Cook, the circumnavigator."

There is no record now of Nelson in the church ; the seat formerly used by him has been marked by a brass plate, but this was removed to the vestry to preserve it from the attentions of relic hunters.

The large old house opposite the church—sometimes erroneously called the manor house, though that was pulled down about 1800—is much decayed, and has been a great deal hacked about, but there is early seventeenth-century brickwork in parts of the house and in the garden walls ; until recently it was occupied as a school. Probably this is the Merton Place sold by Edward VI. to Thomas Lock, and afterwards owned by different families until it came into the hands of Sir Thomas Chitty, and was devised by him to his daughter, Eleanor, wife of George Bond,

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and may be the house which was occupied by Garrick and by Sheridan, described then as Church House.

The Abbey, and the district associated with the name of Nelson, is nearly a mile to the east, near the river. His life at Merton did not cover a great space of time ; the small estate of Merton Grove was purchased for him by Lady Hamilton in 1801, and they lived there from October in that year till May 1803, when he left to resume his command in the Mediterranean ; Lady Hamilton was then a widow, her husband having died in April. Before his departure Nelson devised " his capital messuage at Merton, gardens, grounds, etc., extending to seventy acres," to her, her heirs, and assigns. He returned again, and finally quitted Merton in September 1805. Lady Hamilton continued to live there until about 1808, when she got into debt and difficulties ; the bill for £20,000, which she presented to the nation as the price of her services to Nelson in the Mediterranean, was ignored, and she went abroad to get away from her creditors. The estate at Merton was sold, broken up, and built on, and the only traces now remaining are a public-house sign, " The Nelson Arms," and the name of Nelson's Fields, which is sometimes still applied to the district near High Street and Abbey Road.

He was happy here, though it was the most inglorious portion of his life ; his " dear Emma " was a clever woman, who knew how to make him comfortable, and if we could get rid of the glamour cast over her by Romney's many idealised portraits, we might be able to see her in truer perspective. Her personality and their mode of life at Merton are familiar from many contemporary descriptions, none of these being at all complimentary to the lady's looks or her manners ; the so-called

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services rendered by her to Nelson may be usefully studied in Captain Mahan's work.

Merton Priory was about a mile east from the parish church, and occupied sixty acres, but there was not much left of the buildings when Henry VIII. had finished with them; he did for Merton Priory when building Nonsuch precisely what he did for Chertsey Abbey when building Oatlands—made a quarry of it, and removed all the stone and other portions that he required, leaving little but the flint core of the walls.

The history of Merton—the town on the marsh—begins somewhere about 784, when Cynewulf, King of the West Saxons, arrived to visit a lady residing there; the visit was resented by Cyneheard, who, with his party, slew the King and all his attendants; on the following day the thanes and followers of Cynewulf, who were somewhere in the vicinity, attacked Cyneheard and slew him and all his eighty-four followers, save one, who may have been kept as a specimen, or else was fleet of foot.

In 871 another battle is recorded, fought by King Etheldred and his brother, Alfred (the Great), against the Danes; the King was mortally wounded, Bishop Heathmond and many good men were slain, the Danes retained possession of the field, but the English claimed the victory—one of the early instances of the “moral victory” which is so familiar nowadays.

The manor was afterwards held by Harold, and at the Domesday Survey by the Conqueror—2100 acres of arable land, fifty-six villeins, thirteen bordars, a church, two mills, ten acres of meadow, and the wood yields eighty swine.

The principal manor was given by Henry I. to a priory of Austin Canons founded here in 1115 by Gilbert the Norman,

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and it was held by them until the dissolution of the monastery by Henry VIII.

The first priory erected by Gilbert was a timber dwelling, presided over by Robert Bayle, sub-prior of a similar house at Huntingdon, and the founder bestowed on him two hundred acres of land, a mill, and certain tenants in villeinage. The site of this house is supposed to have been near Merton Church, and two years later Gilbert was induced by Bayle to remove the establishment to another site ; when the new house was finished, the prior and the fifteen brethren went thither in procession, singing.

In 1121 Gilbert bought the whole manor from the King for one hundred pounds in silver and six marks in gold, with all customs and privileges, to enable them to construct a church in honour of the Virgin Mary.

About 1130 the priory was first built of stone ; by that time there were thirty-six brethren. The founder died in the same year and was buried in the convent ; the buildings were completed in 1136.

The establishment was patronised by Queen Matilda, and rapidly became an important one ; the prior was a mitred abbot with a seat in Parliament, and persons of rank and wealth joined the fraternity.

Among these was Thomas à Becket, son of one of the merchant princes in London, who was educated here, and became the intimate friend of Henry II., they jesting with each other in rough horse play as they rode through the streets ; presently he became Chancellor, and was loaded with riches ; and then, much against his will, Archbishop of Canterbury, and so to the

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end that awaited him ; it was no easy task for an honest man to be a favourite of that King.

Walter de Merton, the founder of Merton College, was a native of the place, and was educated at the Abbey—an able man, who became Keeper of the Great Seal in 1258, was twice Lord Chancellor, and finally Bishop of Rochester.

Other events at Merton were the conclusion of peace between Henry III. and Lewis the Dauphin of France, through the mediation of the papal legate, Gaulo, in 1217. Hubert de Burgh had to seek refuge here from the King's wrath in 1232, and the sanctuary was strong enough to hold him against all the powers of King Henry III. on that occasion and on others. In 1236 a parliament was held at Merton Abbey, when the enactments known as the statutes of Merton were made ; on the same occasion the prelates proposed to introduce Canon law founded on the imperial constitutions, and to supersede the common law of the realm, but the Barons replied, " We will not alter the laws of England " ; all these during one reign shows that the Abbey had indeed become great.

But some time afterwards William of Wykeham made certain rules which show that deterioration had taken place among the inmates ; canons were prohibited from hunting, or keeping dogs for sport within the walls, on pain of being restricted to a diet of bread and ale during six holy days. Bishop Henry de Woodlock censured the canons for not attending mass, and for going about with bows and arrows. The list of priors does not show long tenure of office, with one exception—John Kingston, who died in 1485, held the office for forty-three years. The last prior, John Bowle, surrendered the priory in

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1538 and received a pension of two hundred marks ; the gross revenue was then £1039.

Queen Mary in 1558 bestowed the priory on the monastery of Shene, but the estates were resumed by Queen Elizabeth, who, in 1587, granted the buildings and site, with lands in five parishes, to Gregory Lovell, Cofferer of the Royal Household, for twenty-one years ; the lease was renewed for a similar term at an annual rent of £26, 13s. 4d. In 1600, three years after Lovell's death, the premises were granted to Nicholas Zouche and Thomas Ware, as trustees for Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, High Admiral of England, to be held by knight's service, at the same yearly rent ; in 1604 the Earl sold his interest to John Spilman, and the quit rent was afterwards settled on Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I., as part of her dower. John Spilman was succeeded in the ownership by two others before the property passed into the hands of Thomas Pepys, Master of the Jewel Office to Charles II. and James II.—the "Cousin Tom" so often mentioned in Pepys' *Diary*, where the purchase is noted. In 1701 William Hubballd, Accountant of the Navy Office, became the owner ; he died in 1709, and two years later his estates were sold to satisfy his debts to the Crown, the priory site and buildings being purchased by Sir William Phippard ; after his death in 1723, the property was divided among his children and representatives.

In March 1609 James I., in consideration of over £828, transferred the principal manor to Thomas Hunt and his wife, Joyce, and again by other letters patent to Thomas Ford of London, his heirs and assigns for ever, in 1617. In 1668 Nicholas Philpott held the manor in right of his wife, Penelope Haward ;

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their son and daughter sold it to John Dorril, who held a court here in 1693 ; he died in 1720, and was succeeded by his son, John Chambers Dorril, and his widow held the manor in dower until her death in 1784, when it descended to her grandson, John C. Dorril, by whom it was sold in 1801 to John Hilbert ; the manor house was pulled down shortly before that.

During the Civil War the ruins of the Abbey were garrisoned by orders of the Derby House committee ; in 1680 they were advertised to let ; there then remained several large rooms and a fine chapel ; in 1724 two factories for calico-printing were established within the walls, the chapel being used as a printing-room, and later a copper mill was also started in the precincts, employing altogether a thousand persons.

The calico-printing industry was introduced into England by a Frenchman who started some works near Richmond in 1676. In 1700 the silk and woollen weavers obtained protection against the importation of chintzes from India ; and to meet the demand for a cheaper printed material, calico-printing was started here by Mr. Nixon—whose tomb is in the old churchyard—he imported the white cloth and printed on that ; in time he perfected the system of printing by copper plates, and was so successful that again the silk weavers sought protection against his produce ; at first it was taxed threepence per square yard, then sixpence, and finally the Government prohibited the sale of all printed calico.

To evade this, the trade then printed on linen for some years, and after a time on a mixture of cotton and linen called by them “union,” which was permitted, but taxed sixpence a square yard.

The introduction of machine-printing carried the trade to the north of England, and the works here turned their attention

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to the printing of silk and woollen goods ; silk-printing is still carried on by Messrs. Liberty, but that, I think, is the only remnant of the trade that is left. Only some portions of flint walls now remain of the priory buildings.

The Wandle at Merton has not been robbed of all its beauty, and a few pretty spots still exist in the three miles of its course to the Thames at Wandsworth and the myriad houses of London. Even in its village state, Wandsworth was not quite Arcadian, and Nicholas Spencer in 1770 commented very severely on the frivolity and dissipation attending its "Whitsun fair" ; this, he said, "was attended with the most fatal results to the youth in general. . . . Here, apprentices, whose masters in compliance with custom indulges in a holiday, become acquainted with those who have already forsaken the paths of virtue, and are tempted to desert or rob their masters ; repeated crimes embolden them in wickedness, and they seldom stop, till they are obliged for the good of the community to be cut off by a violent death."

No doubt the character of Wandsworth improved as it grew up, and is now of average goodness.

In the seventeenth century there was a considerable colony of Dutch brassworkers, and towards the close of that century many Huguenots settled there ; they rented an old chapel in the High Street, and their burial-ground still remains at the fork of the roads towards Vauxhall and Clapham, but they were gradually absorbed in the local population.

Henry Smith, the greatest benefactor Surrey ever had, or is likely to have, was a native of Wandsworth, and died there ; his monument was removed to the present parish church, but his place of burial is now unknown.

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It is a pleasure to leave behind the miles of little modern houses ranged in undistinguished streets in the valley, and climb the hill towards Wimbledon Common, where all the surface of the earth is not hidden by bricks and pavement ; there are glimpses of gardens, though they are suburban, and old elms growing in the footpath.

There are now very few ancient houses, but there is a wind-swept common and a wealth of old associations.

The only old house of much architectural interest is near the top of the hill, at the south-eastern corner of the common, and is now known as the Eagle House ; built of red brick, with stone facings, the lower storey has stone mullioned windows, the others mullions of oak ; it has ten gables, and three of these face the street as it stands back in a little courtyard screened by some lime trees ; it was built about 1613 by Robert Bell, one of the original members of the East India Company ; he died in 1640, and the house remained in the occupation of his widow until her death seven years later ; some time afterwards it was sold to Sir Richard Betenson ; it was subsequently owned by the Marquis of Bath, and by the Right Hon. William Greville, a relative of Pitt ; then it became a school kept by Dr. Huntinford, who removed here from Hammersmith, bringing with him the stone eagle which had adorned his establishment there, and placed it as a finial on the centre gable ; in 1887 the house was bought by T. G. Jackson, R.A., who restored it ; the brickwork has been covered with cement, so that the colour has gone, except in the good old chimney-stacks and the tiled

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roof ; four of the ceilings are said to be fine, and of the same age as the house.

The old parish church is about half a mile east from this, and has been so often pulled down and rebuilt since the latter part of the eighteenth century that, except for the tombs and the Wimbledon Chapel, it has little interest, and is practically a large new church built of flint and stone, and having galleries on three sides of the interior.

The Wimbledon, or Cecil, Chapel contains the black marble altar tomb of "Sir Edward Cecil, knight, Lo' Cecil and Baron of Putney, Viscount Wimbledon," with a long inscription, "who followed the wars in the Netherlands five and thirty years, and commanded at Cadiz, died 1638." This was the grandson of Queen Elizabeth's Burleigh, and the first and last Viscount Wimbledon. There are twelve pieces of armour and six small stones, placed there probably at the same time as the tomb ; the inscriptions on these are : "Sir Christopher Wraye, knt, heyer to the Drury's, and his wife, Albinil Cecil ;" "The Lo' Francis Willoughby of Parrom and his wife, Eliz' Cecil ;" "his first wife ;" "his second wife ;" "Mr. James Fines, son and heyer of Lo' Vic' Saye and his wife, Francis Cecil ;" and "Dorothy Cecil, unmarried as yet." What can poor Dorothy have thought when she came here to worship and saw this reproach of her virgin state staring at her ?

One of the two carved grave-slabs on the chancel floor is that of Sir Richard Wynne, gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Charles I., and companion of that prince on his journey into Spain when courting a Spanish princess ; he died in 1649.

Among the numerous monuments in the church there is

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one of black, grey, and coloured marble of fine design and workmanship to William Walter and Catherine Walter, 1537, one to Sir Joseph Bazalgette, and another to Charles Norman Bazalgette. A mural monument to Elizabeth, Lady Alva, has a rather extended pedigree inscribed : born 1717 ; married, first, to William Maxwell of Preston, Kirkcudbright, by whom she had two daughters—Mary, Countess of Sutherland, born 1740, and “Willielma,” Viscountess Glenorchy, born 1741 ; secondly, the Hon. Charles Erskine of Alva, Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, whom she survived, dying in 1806. The monument was erected to her memory by her granddaughter, Elizabeth, Marchioness of Stafford and Countess of Sutherland, in 1827.

There is also a memorial to General Sir Henry Murray, fourth son of the Earl of Mansfield, who fought in Egypt, the Peninsula, and at Waterloo ; he died in 1860 ; and to the Hon. Lady Murray, who was Miss de Visme of Wimbledon Lodge.

The churchyard is crowded with tombs, great and small, some of them monstrous in size and elaboration ; they include those of John (vulture) Hopkins, 1732 ; Benjamin Bond Hopkins, 1794 ; Gerard de Visme, 1797 ; Margaret, Countess of Lucan, 1814 ; Sir Theodore Jansen, 1748 ; Sir Abraham Jansen, 1763 ; and Gilbert Newton, the painter, 1835.

There are a few good Georgian houses on the west side of the church, but nothing to remind us of the historic period of Wimbledon's greatness.

At the Domesday Survey Wimbledon was part of the manor of Mortlake held by the Archbishops of Canterbury, and appears to have been a grange or cattle farm ; at a later time part of the land was held from that See by Robert de Wymbeldon.

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Archbishop Cranmer exchanged it for other lands with Henry VIII., by whom it was granted to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex; on his attainder and execution the estate reverted to the Crown, and was settled for life on Catherine Parr; at her death it was given to Cardinal Pole, who died in 1558, and the Crown resumed possession.

Queen Elizabeth gave the estate to Sir Christopher Hatton, and the manor house was sold by him to Sir Thomas Cecil, eldest son of Lord Burleigh. The Queen must afterwards have taken her gift back from Hatton, as she conveyed the manorial estate to Sir Thomas Cecil, who then rebuilt the old manor house which had been occupied by Catherine Parr, and by his father, when that astute statesman had a priest of his own in the house, while he at the same time conformed by attendance at Wimbledon Church. The new mansion was erected in most magnificent style about 1588; ten years later, having succeeded his father, Sir Thomas had Queen Elizabeth as his guest for three days while on her way to Nonsuch.

In June 1616 and in 1619 he entertained James I. at a banquet and hunting; Gondomar was feasted here, and in return sent his host a Spanish "olio," a pie out of which Bishop Goodman said "he did eat bacon, pheasant, partridge, chestnuts, pease, and many other things"—it does not seem light food, but probably the Bishop had a good appetite. Sir Thomas was created Earl of Exeter in 1605, and died in 1622, leaving the estate to his third son, Edward, whose tomb has been noticed in the church.

After the death of Sir Edward in 1638 his daughters and coheirs sold the manor to the Earl of Holland and others, acting

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as trustees for Queen Henrietta Maria, who, with Charles I., sometimes lived at Wimbledon; a few days before his trial the King ordered the seeds of Spanish melons to be planted in the garden here.

When the Crown lands were seized by the Parliament and put up for sale, Wimbledon, valued at £386, 19s. 8d. per annum, was bought by Adam Bayes at eighteen years' purchase, and from him it appears to have been bought by General Lambert, who was as fond of flowers and pictures as its previous owners had been. After he was discarded by Cromwell for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the Protector, he retired to Wimbledon with a comfortable pension of £2000 a year, and turned florist; and, in the quiet intervals when he was not in the Tower, or Guernsey, or undergoing persecution of some kind, he collected and cultivated the finest tulips and gilliflowers that money could buy; he was a clever flower painter, and much of his work remained at Wimbledon after he was dispossessed.

After the Restoration the estate was returned to the Queen Dowager, but almost immediately it was sold by her to George Digby, Earl of Bristol, who applied to John Evelyn for his advice in laying out the gardens. Evelyn, on 17th February 1662, notes, "I went with my Lord of Bristol to see his house at Wimbledon, newly bought of the Queen Mother, to help contrive the garden after the modern; it is a delicious place for prospect and thickets, but a cold soil and weeping clay"; on his return to London the same evening he continues, "This night was buried in Westminster Abbey, the Queen of Bohemia after all her sorrows and afflictions."

The Earl of Bristol soon after took part in what appears

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to have been an intrigue by Charles II. to enable him to relax the laws against Popery.

Digby's Protestantism was suspected before the Restoration ; he now suddenly became a convert to the Catholic faith, and made a violent attack on Clarendon in the House of Lords ; but the scheme was not ripe enough, and he made haste to get unconverted again, and appeared "in the parish church of Wimbledon with a notary and two witnesses, and made a public declaration that he was a Protestant" ; after taking the minister and other gentlemen to dine with him, he mounted and rode away. Soon after, the King sent a guard and a herald to Wimbledon to arrest him, but apparently, much to the vexation of the King, he could not be found. Pepys says the affair was "hushed up," and the Earl of Bristol remained in quiet possession until his death in 1676. His widow sold the estate to the Earl of Danby, afterwards Duke of Leeds, who left the estate in trust, and it was sold in 1717 to Sir Theodore Jansen, one of the directors of the South Sea Company ; when that bubble burst, the estate was bought by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and demised by her to the son of her second daughter Lady Anne Churchill, John Spencer, who in turn left it to his only son, John, created Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorp in 1765, and it remains with his descendant ; the fifth Earl sold his manorial rights in the common in 1871, but Earl Spencer is still lord of the manor.

The old house erected by Sir Thomas Cecil suffered severely by a gunpowder explosion in 1628—the day before his Exeter House in the Strand was destroyed by fire—but it was soon repaired and made more beautiful than ever ; it is of little use to describe its gardens, alleys, mazes, fountains, orangeries, and gorgeous

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chambers now, or its grand avenue which led in a straight line northward to Putney Common. Jansen had begun to pull it down when it passed from him to the Duchess of Marlborough, who completed the work of destruction, and engaged the Earl of Burlington to design another house for her ; this was completed in 1735, and fifty years later was destroyed by fire. In 1801 a new house was built on a site some distance north-west from the old one, and called Wimbledon Park House ; about 1827 this became the residence of the Duke of Somerset ; there Joseph Paxton began life as a gardener under his brother, who was in charge of the seven acres of ground. Lewis mentions a curious sarcophagus and some marble lying there as having been brought from Pompeii for Napoleon, captured on the way, and afterwards presented to Earl Spencer.

Wimbledon Park was severed from the Spencer estates in 1836 ; the lake remains, some fields, and a golf course, but the bulk of the property is now covered with fine new houses. About one hundred and fifty acres are still unbuilt on, and the borough authorities propose to acquire these as an open space—a wise resolution.

Another estate of one hundred acres and a residence known as Wimbledon House was the property of Sir Henry Banks, and afterwards of Benjamin Bond Hopkins, from whom it was purchased in 1791 by M. Calonne, Minister of State to Louis XIV. ; it was sold by him to Earl Gower, afterwards Marquis of Stafford ; from him it passed seven years later to Sir Stephen Lushington ; from 1810 to 1814 it was the residence of the Prince of Condé, and in the year following it was bought by Joseph Marryat, a wealthy West India merchant, and father of the novelist, who was then

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twenty-two years old, but it is doubtful if any of his works were written there. Joseph Marryat died in 1824, and the house was occupied by his widow for many years; she was an American lady, and made the gardens famous and unrivalled near London. Among its previous occupants had been the Marquis of Bath, Sir William Draper, Lord Grenville, and in recent years it was the property of Sir Henry Peek, the principal saviour of the common.

Among the notable people who have lived near the south end of Wimbledon Common—though all, or nearly all, of their houses have been destroyed or rebuilt—may be mentioned: Sir William Congreve; Lord Rockingham, who died in a house near the “Crooked Billet” in 1782; Gerard de Visme, in a house looking north on the Green afterwards occupied by Sir Henry Murray, who married Miss de Visme; and by Earl Bathurst. West from this, on the same side, William Wilberforce died in 1777, and was succeeded by his more famous nephew, William, the abolitionist; Pitt was a frequent visitor in his time; the house was afterwards occupied by Mildert, Bishop of Durham.

A house on the east of Sir Henry Murray's was the residence of Sir Francis Burdett in 1807—the time of his duel with Mr. Paul. “West Side,” facing the Green, was occupied in the latter half of the eighteenth century by Mr. Brown, a wealthy merchant who formed a great collection of antique sculpture, which he sold to the Empress of Russia in 1787; his agent failed and lost most of the money, which so affected Mr. Brown that he died of apoplexy; the house was afterwards occupied by the second Viscount Melville, and by Lord Lyndhurst. The next house northwards was occupied by Henry Dundas, first Viscount

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Melville, and later by the Duke de Cannizaro, whose name was subsequently attached to it.

In the corner house, south from Mr. Brown's, Horne Tooke spent the last twenty years of his life ; his Sunday parties were famous, or notorious, and of course he built a tomb for himself in the garden. Nearer the camp, where a house known as the "Keir" was built, stood the residence of the egregious William Benson, who elbowed Sir Christopher Wren out of his post as Surveyor-General ; Benson knew nothing of the work, though he accompanied George I. to Germany, and is credited with planning the water works at Herrenhausen ; he is described as an unprincipled, characterless man, who tried to gain a reputation by patronising literary men, living and dead, but his ignorance of architecture brought him to grief over a question of the stability of the House of Lords ; he was removed from his post, and died here in 1754.

At "Gothic House," in the hollow towards Kingston, lived the authoress of "Auld Robin Gray," and afterwards Captain Marryat. Lord Chancellor Cottenham, John Murray, and William Gifford also lived in the village, as it was then.

The much damaged earthwork formerly known as the "Rounds," and in recent years as "Cæsar's Camp," still survives, after being a bone of contention for many a year, both as to its origin and destination ; it seems to have been an ancient British fort, occupied by later nationalities in turn.

Some fifty years ago the owner, Mr. Drax, thought that its proper purpose was to provide building sites, and, having levelled most of the ground, placed building materials on it ; but some clever person found that the site was entirely surrounded by

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common land, and an injunction was obtained from the Master of the Rolls in 1875, restraining the owner from using the roads over the common for any other purpose than the necessities of agriculture ; the injunction was made perpetual on appeal, and the camp was scheduled as an ancient monument, but its interest had been largely destroyed by the levelling operations ; it commands wide views—northwards, over the wooded glades of Richmond Park, and southward almost to Dorking ; the fine spring known as “ Cæsar’s Well ” has been curbed with granite, and a pump provided, by Sir Henry Peek.

A path from the camp leads across the valley through Combe Wood to Kingston and Malden, though the right-of-way is now under dispute, and there is no longer the freedom to roam, that used to bring painters like Constable and Leslie here to sketch. Earlier still, the wood was a lurking-place for highwaymen ; one, Gibson, a brokendown maltster, was hanged in 1755 for robbery here, and a better-known “ gentleman of the road,” Louis Jeremiah Abershawe, suffered the same fate for crimes in the vicinity in 1795. Many tales are told about the latter, and, like most highwayman stories, they are probably largely fabulous ; after all, there is no greater courage displayed in holding a pistol to the head of a surprised and defenceless man, and stealing his valuables, than there is in sneaking down an area and stealing the spoons.

The Beverley brook is now included in the common all the way to Robin Hood Gate in Richmond Park—more than a mile—and an effort is being made by the conservators to secure a strip of land on the west side of the brook for the same distance, and so preserve the characteristic features of the landscape. No



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better investment for the present and future generations of London could be imagined, and it is a pity that the great mass of the public are so slow to recognise the equity of their shouldering some of the burden now laid on the conservators ; to some extent it may arise from ignorance of what is done for them ; unfortunately this age not only looks a gift horse in the mouth, but also has a faculty for ignoring that it is a gift horse at all. It is almost certain that there will soon be a main road along this boundary, and the farther away from the common that is kept, the better it will be for all.

But for the self-sacrifice of the conservators and residents in the vicinity there would be no Wimbledon Common, by far the prettiest open space near London ; it lacks the commanding position and wide views of Hampstead, and the forest scenery of Epping, but in many ways it is more beautiful than either.

The wide plateau on the top, which I have drawn, falls on the western side into many little valleys and dingles, clothed with coppice wood, birch trees, scrub oak, hawthorn and blackthorn, dense undergrowth of bracken and brambles, stretches of rough grass, and marshy ground ; a few crab-apple trees still flourish and flaunt their beautiful blossoms in the later days of spring ; no doubt they are descendants of those about which the tenants made their moan to the manor court in the sixteenth century, complaining that certain persons had stolen the fruit, "and the tenants of the land cannot have their apples growing upon the common according to their rate, as from ancient times they were accustomed." These became the "toasted crabs" that Shakespeare sings about ; they were not eaten as fruit, but toasted and added to the warm ale that cheered their hearts in winter days.

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Even yet, the blue bell, primrose, wood-anemone, orchis, ragged-robin, and meadow-sweet survive, though sadly depleted by marauding flower hawkers, for the keepers cannot be everywhere ; perhaps even more damage is caused by the scarcer flowers being taken by school children in search of specimens for their botanical classes.

The brook is no longer an oozy ditch, but a flowing stream of clear water, and is occasionally visited by some of the rarer birds ; in the autumn children still go blackberrying, and one may watch the pheasants and wood-pigeons reaping the harvest of acorns and hazel-nuts, hear the jays quarrelling among the oak trees, and the larks singing as they rise above the fallen leaves and withered grass ; on the higher ground, the gorse and heather add their brown, gold, or crimson to the colours of the season ; in some parts these tend to die out, but any of the older clumps of gorse may be that before which Linnæus knelt and thanked God for creating a thing so beautiful.

The ground around the windmill has been a place for military reviews for a very long time, and in bygone days was the part most favoured for duels, in which the fool of the evening had often to be the victim of the morning ; the boundary of the common, and Putney heath, runs east and west at this spot, but, so far as the public are concerned, it is a theoretical one, and the duels on both spaces may be reckoned together.

In 1652 Lord Chandos fought with Colonel Compton ; the latter was killed ; in 1789 the Duke of York and Lieutenant-Colonel Lennox fought ; the Duke's hair was grazed ; in 1798 William Pitt, Prime Minister, fought with William Tierney ; nothing happened ; in 1807 Sir Francis Burdett fought with

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James Paul ; both were wounded ; in 1809 Lord Castlereagh shot George Canning through the thigh ; in the same year Mr. Clarke fought with George Payne ; the latter was killed ; in 1839 the Marquis of Londonderry fought with Henry Grattan ; in 1840 the Earl of Cardigan fought with Captain Tuckett, who was wounded in the ribs. These are a few of the more famous duels ; there were many others.

George III. reviewed the Surrey Volunteers here in 1799, and the meeting of the National Rifle Association made the name of Wimbledon a household word during the latter half of the nineteenth century ; at those meetings, especially on fine Sundays, the common became a lively spot. The shooting, for those who took part in it, was serious work, but the social side was not forgotten, and no doubt many men in all parts of the Empire can smile as they recall the memory of these gladsome picnics, where their military bearing and many coloured uniforms took by assault the guileless hearts of the maidens from London. Alas for drab and distant Bisley. Now the crack of the rifle is no longer heard, and sometimes one may wander for hours without meeting half a dozen people.

The common is notable as the first that was really saved for the people, by the public spirit of the residents in the neighbourhood led by Sir Henry Peek. The absolute barrenness, from an agricultural point of view, of many Surrey commons has been their salvation ; they were of no value except for gravel-digging, providing coppice wood for fuel, and affording a place of exercise, rather than a feeding-ground for the commonable animals—horses, donkeys, cows, and geese—neither sheep nor pigs being entitled to benefit.

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The early enclosures were not of the heath lands, but of the common fields, which had been tilled by the tenants for their own benefit ; after the Wars of the Roses, the feudal aristocracy were so enfeebled and impoverished that they could no longer maintain the large bands of armed followers provided from their tenantry, while about the same time the great demand for wool on the Continent turned their attention to sheep-raising. The tenants were gradually evicted, and the agricultural land laid down in pasture ; by the time of Henry VII., Bacon says, “ Enclosures began to be more frequent, and arable lands, which could not be maintained (and worked) without people and families, were turned into pasture, which was easily rid by a few herdsmen ; and tenancies for years, lives, or at will, whereupon many of the yeomen lived, were turned into demesnes (in the lords’ own hands). This bred a decay of people, and by consequence a decay of towns, churches, tithes, and the like.” Bishop Latimer denounced the nobles as enclosers, graziers, and rent raisers, who had made dowerless slaves of the yeomen. Sir Thomas More was equally emphatic : “ Noblemen, gentlemen, and even abbots, in their eagerness to swell their revenues, leave no ground for tillage, they enclose all pastures, throw down houses, pluck down towns (farm towns), and leave nothing standing.”

The decay of people rendered the commons—as distinguished from the common fields—of small importance until about 1710, when foreign wars, and the necessity of a supply of corn for an increasing population, led to the enclosure of about five millions of acres during the next hundred and fifty years ; where the commons were capable of being turned into arable land in Surrey, this was done, but still the rough, sandy moor-

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land remained ; in many other counties the commons vanished entirely.

The next danger arose from the increase of population, and barren heath land, that had been useless since the waters receded from the face of the earth, gradually became of immense value as building sites.

Here at Wimbledon, the new dwellers were annoyed by tramps and gipsies who had their harbourage on the common and stole everything that they could carry away, besides acting as footpads, relieving honest citizens of their money and trinkets within sight of their own houses. The lord of the manor drew his rents, but took no notice of his tenants' troubles ; where he lived there were keepers and a strong park wall, and his Jove-like slumbers were not disturbed ; but the cry of the little people increased in force, and he awoke with a start to make inquiries what all the noise was about. Extraordinary thing—these tenants not only objected to tramps and gipsies, but they also objected to his servants digging gravel, and cutting down wood, for the profit of their master.

People are so unreasonable, but something had to be done, and the lord of the manor calmly proposed to enclose two-thirds of the common and make it into a nice park, with geraniums, and garden seats, lawns, and flower beds, and that sort of thing ; and he would defray the expenses incurred, with, perhaps, a trifle over, by selling the remainder on building leases. The proposal was absolutely declined. Sir Henry Peek and the other residents waged a bitter fight in the law courts ; Mr. Shaw Lefevre and others championed their cause in Parliament, with such success that the lord of the manor finally washed his hands of the whole

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business, and in 1870 transferred the management of the common to the residents in the neighbourhood. An Act of Parliament in the year following made over the ground to an elected body of conservators, and secured to the lord of the manor an annuity equal to the revenue derived by him at the time from wood-cutting, gravel-digging, etc., the annuity being levied by rate on the inhabitants living in the vicinity.

Since that time the common has increased in beauty year by year, and its boundaries have been enlarged; wisely, the management is largely confined to letting things alone and healing the scars inflicted in the past years, and in the general supervision of evil-disposed persons.

A bit of bog land has been made into a small lake near the Kingston Road, and a little "lake in the woods" was constructed in a hollow west from the windmill.

There were formerly a number of barrows on the north-west portion of the ground; a few of these were opened in 1760 by "a gentleman from London," who is supposed to have been Dr. Stukeley; the remainder were examined in 1786 by Mr. Douglas; nothing of consequence was found, and the tumuli were all levelled many years ago.

Near the road from Wandsworth to Kingston Vale there is an obelisk which few people now take much notice of, yet its erection and purpose was considered worthy of four pages in the Annual Register of 1777, when the foundation stone was laid by John Sawbridge, Lord Mayor, a hundred and ten years after the "Great Fire," to perpetuate the memory of an invention for securing buildings against fire. This method of rendering buildings fire-proof was invented by David Hartley, M.P. for

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Kingston-upon-Hull, and many experiments were made to demonstrate its success. "It enabled them to mock the rage of the otherwise all-devouring element. . . . What is any money to life, to a limb, to health? and, above all, to that security of mind in which this new method must enable every man who has recourse to it, to live, and especially to lie down to sleep, with regard to the safety of his person from the most painful of all deaths."

The invention was merely the introduction of thin iron plates under the floors, and nailed on the joists; it never came into general use, and probably never was used at all in any practical way, though a grant of £2500 was made by the House of Commons towards defraying the expenses of Mr. Hartley's experiments on a house built here for the purpose; these were witnessed by the King, Queen, members of Parliament, and aldermen, and by their combined wisdom the system was declared to be eminently successful.

In later years one of the old semaphore telegraph towers stood near the obelisk; it is curious to read in the *Times'* report of the opening of this line from London to Portsmouth, that the movement of the arms was hopefully expected to assist greatly in the dispersion of fogs.

Along the northern boundary of Putney Heath there are still several large houses standing in considerable grounds, though the tendency is for these to be broken up and superseded by smaller dwellings. Lord Bristol had a house here, which was for some time the residence of Mrs. Siddons; and James M'Pherson lived for some years in a villa afterwards occupied by Andrew Drummond; by that time he had done with Gaelic poetry, and adopted the more profitable trade of a

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political pamphleteer ; the rolling mists and wandering voices of his poetry did not cloud the clear eye with which he regarded the main chance during his twenty-five years in the south country ; perhaps he also, had a dual personality.

Bowling Green House recalls the memory of the most famous green near London ; from about 1690 to near the close of the eighteenth century it was a place of fashionable resort. It is mentioned by Defoe in 1722 as a place “ where I have seen pretty deep play ” ; and Walpole, in 1750, gives an account of the arrest of James M'Lean, a gentleman highwayman, who had quarrelled with, and challenged an officer, for disputing his rank at Putney Bowling Green. Mr. M'Lean was hanged two months afterwards at Tyburn ; the incident led to a decline in the popularity of this resort, and the house was converted into a private residence ; about the beginning of the nineteenth century this was taken by William Pitt, and here he passed the troubled years that remained to him ; broken in health, he faced the danger of invasion with courage, but not even the victory at Trafalgar could revive his spirits, and the news of Austerlitz was the finishing stroke. It is really of little consequence whether the official or the gossip report of his last words is correct. He died here in 1806, and was buried in the same grave as his father.

A considerable portion of the land sloping downwards towards Barns Elms, and west of Putney, was occupied as a game preserve in the time of Henry VIII., and was then known as Putney Park. In 1553 Queen Mary appointed Robert Tyrwhit keeper and master of the game, and in the time of James I. that office was held by Sir Charles Howard, who had an

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allowance of £15 to buy hay for the deer. In 1627 Charles I., having formed Richmond Park, had no further use for this, and granted it to Sir Richard Weston, who built himself a house at Roehampton Grove in Putney Park; a chapel in this mansion was dedicated by Laud in 1632, and a month later he officiated at the wedding of Jerome Weston and Lady Frances Stewart; Charles I. gave the bride away, and Ben Jonson wrote the epithalamium—

“What a holy day
(Bearing the promise of some better fate)
Hath filled with coaches all the way
From Greenwich thither to Rowhampton gate.”

Jerome Weston succeeded as Earl of Portland, and was appointed Keeper of Richmond Park; the Roehampton house and land was sold by him to Sir Thomas Dawes, who first let, and then sold, the estate to Christiana, Duchess of Devonshire, a talented woman, daughter of Lord Bruce of Kinloss, and distantly related to James I., who gave her in marriage, with a dowry of £10,000. Her husband died in 1628; she became guardian of her son, and extricated the estates from many debts and difficulties. After she moved to Roehampton her house became a centre for men of letters. Hobbes was appointed tutor to her son; Waller, the Earl of Pembroke, and other poets celebrated her praises, and Dr. Donne dedicated a volume of Herbert's work to her.

She was a zealous Royalist, and is said to have abetted the Earl of Holland in his rash enterprise; for this she narrowly escaped being sent to the Tower, and had a considerable hand with General Monk in the Restoration, after which she was often visited by Charles II. She died in 1675, and fourteen years later

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the house was acquired by Sir Jeffery Jefferys ; when he died in 1707 it was again sold, and, after having several owners, it came into the hands of Joshua Vanneck, afterwards created Lord Huntingfield ; he pulled down the old mansion, and employed Wyatt to design and build a new one ; in recent times this was the residence of Mrs. Lyne Stephens.

A few years ago Roehampton was a secluded little village, but it is now growing rapidly, with many new houses and streets.

On both sides of Roehampton Lane leading towards Barnes there are still a few fine mansions with large grounds ; none of them have much general interest, though a few date from the eighteenth century.

Roehampton House was built in 1712 for Thomas Carey ; it was afterwards the residence of the Duke of Albemarle, and became the property of the Earl of Leven and Melville.

Dover House takes its name from Lord Dover, Viscount Clifden ; Greville mentions a visit to him there in 1829 ; it afterwards became the property of Alexander Collie, a financier of the late nineteenth century, who left it rather suddenly.

Downshire House was for many years the residence of the Marchioness of that name. Mount Clare was so named in compliment to Lord Clive and Claremont, by a relative who built it in 1772 ; in 1780 it was purchased and altered by Sir John Dick, the last of the Dicks of Braid, who had been English Consul at Leghorn for over twenty years ; he died here in 1804, and the house has had many owners since. Besborough House designed by Chambers for that Earl was demolished many years ago. Clarence Lodge was the residence of William IV. before he came to the throne ; it afterwards became a school ; several other

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houses have been altered and used for various purposes, and a considerable portion of the land is now devoted to polo and kindred games.

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Barnes Common is still pretty, and though deprived of much space by the intersection of two lines of railway, it contains over a hundred acres, and is not likely to suffer any more amputations now.

The church has lost most of its interest by various rebuildings, but, though now hemmed in by modern houses, it is still essentially a village church. A few of the monuments are noteworthy—one in white marble to Sir Richard Hoare of Barnes Elms, 1787; another to Vice-Chancellor Sir Lancelot Shadwell, 1850; and a brass to William Millebourne, 1415. There is a tablet on the outer south wall to Edward Rose, who died in 1653, and left £20 to buy an acre of land for the poor, who had the rental after the fence round his tomb was kept in repair, and rose bushes kept growing on his grave—a condition that is still fulfilled.

It is sometimes said that Robert Beale—the impetuous and morose brother-in-law of Sir Francis Walsingham, who bore the warrant for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, to Fotheringay, and read it on the scaffold—is buried at Barnes, but that is not so; he died at Barnes in 1601, but was buried in London.

The Terrace was at one time a favourite place of residence for some of the French aristocracy, who had fled to England from

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the Revolution. Millbourne House, built by the man whose brass is in the church, was occupied for a time by Henry Fielding, but the old house has long been pulled down.

Mortlake has much history, but very little evidence of it is left. The manor originally included Wimbledon, Putney, and Barnes, and at a later time became a part of Wimbledon. Before the Conquest the manor belonged to the See of Canterbury, and was seized by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux ; Lanfranc asserted his right to the property before an assembly of nobles and prelates in 1071, and it was returned to him. The principal manor house was always at Mortlake, and became a residence of the archbishops. Whitsuntide was celebrated here in 1099 by Archbishop Anselm. Courboyle lived at Mortlake in 1136. Peckham died here in 1292, and Reynolds in 1327 ; here Mepham retired, when excommunicated, a few years afterwards ; and Bubbewith was consecrated Bishop of London here in 1406, by Arundel. Warham appears to have been the last prelate who used the residence, as Cranmer conveyed it to Henry VIII. for use as a hunting lodge.

In Elizabeth's time the estate was held by Sir Thomas Cecil, who sold it to Thomas Walter, from whom it passed, in 1594, to Elizabeth Stukeley ; her son, Sir Thomas, sold it to William Penn in 1607 ; the manor house was taken down about 1700.

The church has been rebuilt and altered six times since its foundation in 1348, three of these being within the last century ; some of the monuments are to notable people : Sir John Temple, brother of Swift's patron, 1677 ; Sir John Barnard, 1737—an honourable man to whom his fellow-citizens erected a statue in the Royal Exchange, but his modesty deterred him from

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entering that building afterwards ; Sir Philip Francis (Junius), 1818 ; in the churchyard was buried Henry Addington, Prime Minister in 1802. Augustine Phillips, a fellow-actor of Shakespeare, died at Mortlake in 1605 ; he is described as a gentleman ; bequeathed “a thirty shilling piece of gold to my fellow, William Shakespeare,” and directed that his body should be buried in the chancel.

Mortlake had more than its share of astrologers. Dr. John Dee was patronised by Edward VI., imprisoned by Mary, and much in favour with Queen Elizabeth ; he died in 1608, and was buried in the church. His son, Arthur Dee, followed in his father's footsteps ; he was physician to the Czar of Russia, and afterwards to Charles I., but ruined himself in searching for the elixir of life, and died at Norwich, 1651. John Partridge was a native of East Sheen and originally a shoemaker, then an almanac maker, afterwards physician to Charles II., and later to William and Mary ; he died in 1715, and would have been forgotten if his quackery had not been ridiculed in the *Tatler* ; the extraordinary tomb of Sir Richard Burton is in the Roman Catholic cemetery near the church.

The art of tapestry weaving was introduced into England by William Sheldon about 1540, and was further developed in 1619, when James I. gave Sir Francis Crane £2000 to build a house for the manufacture of tapestry at Mortlake. In 1625 Charles I. gave him further a pension of £2000 per annum for ten years, but one-half of that was in satisfaction of a debt of £6000 owing for three suits of gold tapestry ; the other half for the advancement and maintenance of the work. In 1623 Francis Cleyne had been brought from Saxony as limner ; he was made a free citizen

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by the King, and awarded a pension of £100 per year for life ; “his designs carried the works to singular perfection.”

After the death of Sir Francis Crane the works were surrendered to the King by his brother, Sir Richard, and were seized by the Parliament after the King's execution. The Raphael cartoons, which had been acquired by Charles I. on the advice of Rubens, from a manufacturer at Arras, were then in the factory, and were bought by Oliver Cromwell for £300.

After the Restoration, Charles II. brought Verrio to England, with the idea of reviving the manufacture at Mortlake, but he changed his mind ; the works fell into disuse, and Verrio turned his hand to the internal decorations for which he became so famous. Lysons states that Queen's Head Court was built on the site of the factory, the house occupied by Francis Cleyne being opposite.

In the eighteenth century a pottery, for the manufacture of Delft and earthenware, was started, but had a very brief existence ; its products are much in demand by some collectors nowadays. There are still a few good houses by the riverside, but none of ancient date, or with any history attached to them.

Barnes Elms, at the Domesday Survey, belonged to the Canons of St. Paul's, London, and for long afterwards was let on leases to tenants.

In 1467 it was held by Sir John Saye ; in 1480 by Thomas Thwayte, Chancellor of the Exchequer ; in 1504 by Henry Wiatt ; in 1567 by Thomas Smythe, who sold his interest in the estate to Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth—the most astute and devoted of her ministers, and absolutely unscrupulous in her service. His hatred of Mary,

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Queen of Scots, was one of the master passions of his life ; he had spies everywhere, and every letter written in her cause, every device or plot in her favour were known to him ; he urged Sir Amyas Paulet to find some way to shorten his prisoner's life, and no doubt had considerable influence in obtaining her execution ; though he had every opportunity to acquire riches, he died a poor man.

He entertained Queen Elizabeth at Barnes Elms in 1585, 1588, and 1589 ; he died in 1590, and his widow lived here until 1602, when the manor passed to their daughter, Frances, who had married—first, Sir Philip Sidney, killed at Zutphen in 1586 ; second, the Earl of Essex, executed in 1601 ; and third, the fourth Earl of Clanricarde, who, for his services against the rebels in Ireland, was created an English peer in 1624, and Earl of St. Albans in 1628 ; but only her second husband is known to have resided at Barnes Elms.

The lease having expired, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's granted a new lease to John Cartwright for twenty-one years, and when the estate was seized by Parliament and sold as church property he became the purchaser ; but, after the Restoration, the Dean and Chapter recovered their interest, and allowed Mr. Cartwright his lease only.

Besides the mansion, there was a smaller house, to which Abraham Cowley retired, "out of the noise and tumult of the city," but the low-lying situation did not agree with him, and his health grew worse ; Evelyn visited him at Barnes Elms in 1663 and in 1664 ; in the following year he removed to Chertsey.

About the same time, the mansion and grounds appear to

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have been a place of public entertainment, and are referred to at considerable length in Pepys' *Diary*. How long this continued is uncertain ; probably it declined with the advent of William and Mary.

In the reign of George II. Barnes Elms came into the hands of John Heydegger, a Swiss, and described as Master of the Revels, but who appears to have been lessee of the King's Theatre, and a friend of Handel, who resided with him here before the production of some of his works, in 1728 and 1734. Heydegger was celebrated for his wit, his ugliness, and his skill in arranging entertainments for the benefit of his Royal patron.

The estate was afterwards leased by Richard Hoare, and his son, Sir Richard—whose monument is in Barnes Church—enlarged and practically rebuilt the house, which was afterwards occupied by Sir Thomas Colebrook, and by Sir Lancelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor, who died in 1850.

The smaller house which had been occupied by Cowley, and in later days bore the name of "Queen Elizabeth's dairy," became the residence of Jacob Tonson, bookseller and secretary to the Kit-Cat Club—a society originally formed to oppose the arbitrary measures of James II. in 1688, with a meeting-place in Shire Lane, Fleet Street ; but, after Tonson took Barnes Elms, the meetings were held there ; by that time it was a convivial club of wits and eminent persons. Tonson employed Godfrey Kneller to paint the portraits of all the members, and, as the dining-room where they were to be placed was low in the ceiling, shorter canvases were used, the size adopted being three feet by two feet four inches, since known as kit-cat size.

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When Jacob Tonson died, these portraits numbered forty-eight, with his own, full size ; they were removed to Water Oakley, near Windsor, by his grandson, Richard Tonson, and afterwards to Bayfordbury, Hertfordshire, by the representatives of the Tonson family. The house at Barnes Elms was allowed to fall into decay, and was pulled down about 1820.

A famous duel was fought in a field, or close, at Barnes Elms in 1667 between the Earl of Shrewsbury and George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, owing to circumstances sufficient to create scandal even at the Court of Charles II.

Lady Shrewsbury had been the mistress of the Duke, and the injured husband challenged him to a duel, in which the seconds also took a hand, while the lady who was the cause of it all was present in the habit of a groom and sat holding the Duke's horse as an interested spectator.

The "bag" was made up of—Lord Shrewsbury, wounded to death ; Sir John Talbot, severely wounded ; Captain Jenkins, killed ; Robert Holmes and Bernard Howard, wounded. The fair lady and the Duke left them lying, and rode back to London together ; a week or two afterwards, all alike, living and dead, received a pardon under the Great Seal.

The house and what remains of the ground is now occupied by a well-known sports club, and about half of the land is occupied by reservoirs, with a prim embankment between them and the river.

The erasure of all the boundaries of old Putney Park and the formation of new streets and roads have made it impossible to determine the spot where Thomas Cromwell was born ; "west of the highway to Upper Gate, south of the highway

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between Richmond and Wandsworth," is rather indefinite nowadays ; but, as his father was a blacksmith, his shop would be by the wayside, and probably near the present Putney Park Lane.

Little is known of the early history of this illustrious native of Putney until 1527, when he was in the service of Wolsey ; two years later he succeeded his master as Prime Minister, and after eight years more became Baron Okeham. He was lord of the manor on which he was born, and in 1540 was created Earl of Essex ; a few months afterwards he was executed on Tower Hill.

Popular imagination in later years has fathered many of his sins on Oliver Cromwell, who had quite enough of his own to bear.

Putney has had a large share in the making of English history ; many notable men have lived there, and a multitude of traditions survive, but few, if any, old buildings of importance remain in what is now a new and rapidly growing town.

The old village of Puttenheath was concentrated round the church and the ferry, and the population was largely composed of boatmen and fishermen. Tradition has it that the twin churches here, and on the other side of the river at Fulham, were erected by two sisters ; and to prevent any controversy as to which was finest, both were built alike—probably they originated as votive chapels, where passengers could return thanks for safe passage across the river.

King Harold had a fishery here, which after the Conquest became the property of the Archbishops of Canterbury as part of the manor of Mortlake and afterwards the manor of Wimbledon ; both the fishery and the ferry were let to various tenants, or

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these paid a share of their takings to the lord of the manor. In 1601 Sir Thomas Cecil ordered that every waterman should pay to him one halfpenny for every stranger and one farthing for every inhabitant carried across ; if they failed to do this, they were fined two shillings and sixpence ; in 1629 Sir Edward Cecil received an annual rent of fifteen shillings for the ferry, and in 1656 General Lambert gave to the free watermen a plot of ground on which they might erect a shed for their boats.

In 1663 the rent of the fishery was the three best salmon ; in 1717, under Sir Theodore Jansen, the rent was £6 ; and in 1780 this had been raised to £8. By 1810, though the smelt and flounder fishery was still valuable, the salmon fishery was beginning to fail ; the usual river fish were plentiful, but on the scarcer kinds a premium was paid—a guinea for a sturgeon and thirteen shillings for a porpoise, the latter then being still an article of diet, and claimed by the Lord Mayor.

The earliest bridge appears to have been one of boats constructed by the parliamentary Earl of Essex after the battle of Brentford in 1642 ; earthwork forts protected both ends, but this was probably a temporary affair.

A wooden bridge was constructed in 1729 by Mr. Phillips, carpenter to George II., from a design by Mr. Cheselden, a celebrated surgeon, who applied his knowledge of human anatomy in the elaboration of it. The ferry rights were then valued at £400 a year, and were bought out, the Duchess of Marlborough, as lady of the manor, receiving £364, 10s., and the Bishop of London, as owner of Barnes Elms, £23, with the privilege that he and his household should pass the bridge toll free ; probably the remaining £13, 10s. was divided among the ferrymen ; this

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structure was severely damaged on one occasion, but survived until the stone bridge was built.

Although there was no actual fighting here, Putney had a considerable share in the Civil War ; in 1647, after the surrender of the King, hostilities were suspended for a while ; the parliamentary party was divided into two factions, and the Royalists hoped to profit thereby. Cromwell and Fairfax drew their forces together at Putney, on 27th August 1647, it being a place from which they could watch the progress of things in London, and at the same time keep their eyes on the King, who was then a prisoner at Hampton Court.

The leaders of the army took up their residences in the houses of the principal inhabitants, and presumably the soldiers were billeted wherever accommodation could be found ; councils were held in the parish church, generally preceded by a sermon from Hugh Peters or some other preacher. Peters was a violent, turbulent man, though a courageous one, who had been with the "Brownists" in New England, but returned from there to become a sort of chaplain to the leaders of the army. Various threatening notices were sent to Parliament about the arrears of army pay, and after much deliberation their propositions for the future government of the realm were drawn up and sent to the King, who liked them so little that a few days later he escaped and went to the Isle of Wight ; the army then removed from Putney, and no doubt the inhabitants breathed a sigh of relief.

The church retains some fifteenth-century work in the arcades of the nave and parts of the tower, but was practically rebuilt in 1836 by Lapidge, the architect of Kingston Bridge,

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and suffered extensive restoration about thirty-five years ago. The only portion of much interest has been shifted from one side of the chancel to the other, but has some fine fan tracery ; this chapel was built early in the sixteenth century by Nicholas West, Bishop of Ely, for the honour of his native village.

This gentleman was the son of a baker in Putney—studied at Eton, became a rake hell at Cambridge, set fire to his master's lodgings, stole his silver spoons, and ran away from College ; yet he lived to build this chapel, and died in the odour of sanctity, thus showing that there is some hope for us all.

In 1502 he was vicar of Kingston ; in 1510 Dean of Windsor ; in 1515 Bishop of Ely. He was much employed by Henry VIII. on foreign embassies, and was appointed to manage the defence of Katherine of Aragon, in the investigation before Wolsey and Campeggio, as to the legality of her marriage with the King. He became a benefactor to his college, and rebuilt the master's lodgings which he had burnt in his youth ; it is to be hoped that he also replaced the spoons, but history is silent on that point ; he died in 1533.

Queen Elizabeth paid many visits to Putney ; it was conveniently situated for a pause in her journeys to Nonsuch, Hampton Court, and Richmond ; and no doubt she was made comfortable at the house of John Lacy, a wealthy citizen, and a member of the Clothworkers' Company ; "she honoured Lacy with her company more frequently than any of her subjects," and, as the visits recorded number twelve or more, this is probably true ; sometimes she stayed to dinner only ; at other times she remained for two or three nights ; the earliest visit was in 1579

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and the latest in 1603—eight weeks before her death—she being then on her way to Richmond.

When the army was at Putney, Mr. Lacy's house—described as a large mansion by the river, occupied by Mr. Wimondsold—was the quarters of Fairfax and the High Sheriff; Cromwell lodged at Mr. Bonhunt's; Ireton at Mr. Campion's; Fleetwood at Mr. Martin's. None of these houses or their sites can now be identified; a Fairfax House existed about thirty years ago, owned by Mr. Tod, which was then believed to occupy the site of Mr. Lucy's house.

Edward Gibbon was born at Putney in 1737, in the house of his grandfather—"a spacious house with gardens and land extending to about eighty acres and commanding a beautiful prospect of London and the adjoining country, it was situated between the roads leading to Wandsworth and to Wimbledon"—a serious household ruled over by William Law, the author of *A Serious Call to the Unconverted*. Much of his childhood was spent at the house of his mother's father, where his aunt, Catherine Porten, was a more amiable director than Mr. Law—whose work, however, was regarded with much favour by Dr. Johnson; this house was close to the church. "As far back as I can remember the house near Putney Bridge and the churchyard, . . . appears in the light of my proper home;" after the death of his mother, he lived there entirely while in Putney. The house of the elder Gibbon was afterwards occupied by Robert Wood, Under-Secretary of State in Chatham's time, and afterwards celebrated as a traveller and artist who published a volume of drawings of Palmyra in 1753, and of Baalbec in 1757; he died here in 1771. The estate included most of the ground between the present

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Putney Hill and the railway, and is now covered with new streets of good houses, including the plain suburban house where Algernon Charles Swinburne lived for many years.

Curiosity as to how a man of world-wide fame appeared to his humbler neighbours impelled me to ask an old man at work near the top of the hill, "Did you know Swinburne when he lived down there?" "Yes; I knew *Mr.* Swinburne well enough by sight; every day when he was at home, he walked across the common to the 'Crooked Billet' or the 'Rose and Crown,' had a bottle of Bass, and walked home again by another path. *Very* eccentric man; allus had his trousers too short, stuck out his chest, swung his arms, and swaggered along; never carried no umbrella, though 'twas raining, and took no notice of anybody. Yes; I have seen him talk to children sometimes; people as didn't know who he was used to turn round and laugh at him, silly fools! Thinks no one ain't right as don't look like they do; he used to live down the hill along of another old gent, in a house near the barber's shop."

Reverting to older memories, Fuseli died here in 1825 at the house of the Countess of Guilford; Leigh Hunt died in 1859 at the house of his friend Mr. Reynall; and Douglas Jerrold spent nine of the happiest years of his life at West Lodge, Lower Common.

Though neither stick nor stone exists on Putney Hill to remind us of it now, we may quote one more scene that took place there nearly four hundred years ago.

On 18th October 1527, Wolsey was at York House, when the King sent the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk to demand the Great Seal and order him to retire to Esher; they showed no

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authority, and the Cardinal refused to obey them ; they returned on the following day with written commands. Wolsey then departed by water to Putney, and with the remnant of his household proceeded slowly up the hill ; before they reached the top, he was overtaken by Mr. Norris, a gentleman of the bedchamber, who brought a gracious message from the King, saying that the Cardinal was as much in his favour as ever, and adding that the apparent unkindness “was more for the satisfying of some, than of any indignation ; yet he might expect recompense and renewed kindness.” When he heard these comfortable words, the Cardinal quickly lighted from his mule, as though he had been the youngest of his men, and knelt in the dirt, holding up his hands for joy of the King’s message ; Master Norris lighted also, and knelt by him, and took him up in his arms and asked him how he did ; “Master Norris,” quoth the Cardinal, “when I consider the joyful news that you have brought to me, I could do no less than greatly rejoice. Every word pierces so my heart, that the sudden joy surmounted my memory, having no regard or respect to the place ; but I thought it my duty, that in the same place where I received this comfort, to land and praise God upon my knees, and most humbly to render unto my Sovereign Lord my most hearty thanks for the same.”

The old man had few worldly possessions left, and he considered what would be best to send as a token of gratitude to the King ; he decided that the most acceptable would be his fool “Patch” ; “but the poor fool took on like a tirant rather than he would have departed from my lord,” and objected so violently that Wolsey was fain to send six of his tallest yeomen to help Master Norris to convey him to his new master ; despite his struggles he

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was carried back to London, "where the King received him very gladly." Shakespeare may have thought of this story when he wrote *King Lear*.

Surrey is only a little spot of earth, but to explore it as I have done is no light undertaking ; thousands of miles of dusty roads and pleasant paths lie behind me on this autumn day, when the elms are shedding their last gold leaves and all the lanes are strewn with the wreck of vanished summer ; yet, such is the fascination of this goodly land that I would willingly begin now and do it all over again.

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